

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

### This week's poll:

With Osama bin Laden dead, should the U.S. government start scaling back its War on Terror?

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### Labor Day

Thousands of workers and immigrant laborers take to the streets to celebrate May Day.

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Catholics worldwide celebrate the beatification of the late Pope John Paul II.

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### No Bullying

Emma Watson denies reports she was bullied out of Brown University.

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# Bin Laden killed in fiery raid

By DAVID ESPO and KIMBERLY DOZIER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

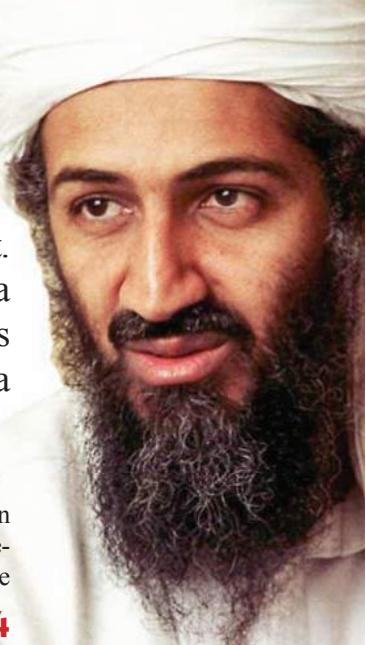
**W**ASHINGTON (AP)—Osama bin Laden, the face of global terrorism and architect of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, was killed in a firefight with elite American forces Monday, then quickly buried at sea in a stunning finale to a furtive decade on the run.

Long believed to be hiding in caves, bin Laden was tracked down in a costly, custom-built hideout not far from a Pakistani military academy. The

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## RELATED NEWS

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## IN WAKE OF BIN LADEN'S DEATH

# NMI remembers fallen soldiers and those still in the battlefield

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

A fierce mix of gladness and grief came over Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero yesterday

Judge stops Marpi poles project for 90 days

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued yesterday a preliminary injunction that momentarily stops for 90 days the CNMI government from completing its power poles project in Marpi.

See JUDGE on Page 4

upon learning about the death of Osama bin Laden, the glowering mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on American soil.

"I am happy that he's gone. But I am also sad and I feel sorry that we've lost many of our fellow men and women deployed in many parts of the world as part of the war against terror," he told *Saipan Tribune* after attending a public hearing on Capitol Hill yesterday.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a statement, said that "today, justice has once again prevailed."

He said the spirit of victory for America resonates across the nation.

See NMI on Page 4



### CONFIRMATION HEARING

Police and corrections officers, along with other individuals, gather in the Senate chamber and gallery to show their support to the governor's nomination of Ray Mafnas as Department of Public Safety commissioner, at a Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations yesterday afternoon. After the public hearing and further review of the nomination, the EAGI panel will make a recommendation to the full Senate whether to confirm or disapprove the nomination. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story on Page 3

Judge stops Marpi poles project for 90 days

Govendo



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# Local

## CUC audit finds improper disconnection, travel practices

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

An independent audit on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for fiscal year 2010 showed that the agency has 20 long outstanding disputed accounts totaling \$2.5 million that were not disconnected and may not be collected at all due to the absence of a formal policy.

In an audit report released by the Office of Public Auditor last week, J. Scott Magliari & Co. indicated that CUC management asserts that these delinquent customers are owners of land where CUC had placed water wells, utility poles, pumps, etc.

"In lieu of CUC making rental payments for use of the property, customers are not paying for utility usage. However, no formal contractual agreement

exists between these customers and CUC. Accordingly, no cost analysis study has been performed to determine the fair value of the property rental versus the property owner's utility consumption," the audit states.

The audit brought to light the lack of a formal CUC policy governing its use of private property in lieu of payment for utility usage. A formal policy was drafted in 2007 and was approved by management but this was never implemented. This lack of contractual agreements with landowners for the use of land was first cited in audits from 2006 to 2009.

According to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, "all disputed customer accounts involving easements have been referred to outside legal counsel and will proceed through an ad-

ministrative hearing process, with litigation to follow, if necessary."

"All legal attempts will be made to collect the amounts due. All affected customers have been notified to begin paying current charges or they will be subject to disconnection," said Warren in his response to the audit findings.

The auditor also found that there are 513 customer accounts whose aggregate overdue balance was \$963,850 and none of which had disputes or promissory notes and were not disconnected in fiscal year 2010.

In 2009, CUC listed 765 disputed accounts with an aggregate balance of \$9.5 million.

"There is a lack of internal control monitoring to ensure that all accounts 90 days past due are disconnected," the auditor said.

J. Scott Magliari recommended that the matter be investigated, saying the same concern was cited in previous audit findings.

Besides weaknesses in internal controls, CUC was also cited for improper liquidation of travel advances.

The auditor revealed that of the 25 travel authorizations selected for testing, eight or 32 percent travel vouchers were not provided during the audit; four of the travel authorizations selected for testing were received beyond the 10-day period rule, and four had advances that were more than 80 percent of the estimated per diem and other expenses.

According to Warren, CUC will review its travel policies and procedures and ensure that all travel will be in compliance with policies.

## 100 participate in Youth Mini Spring Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

About a hundred young community members took part in the Youth Mini Spring Festival held at the Susupe Beach Park last April 30 from 10am to 3pm.

"The purpose of the event was to create awareness with

the youth that there are other ways to enjoy yourselves other than turning to drugs or alcohol due to boredom," event coordinator Rose Marie A. Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

The event, coordinated by the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the CNMI Juvenile Justice Task Force, was spearheaded by

the advocacy group Take Action Youth Advocacy or TAYA at the Community Guidance Center.

The TAYA program consists of high school students in the CNMI who empower other youth with training and skills to advocate for various youth issues such as underage drinking, drinking and driving, and the use of alcohol,

tobacco, and other drugs.

Deleon Guerrero said the event featured fun games and activities like the obstacle course, musical chairs, egg toss, balloon toss, coloring station, face painting, tug of war, Easter egg hunt, and instructional dances by GenCo Sophomores.

She said exciting prizes were raffled off, including a Docomo cell phone pack and two \$25 Cellular Pro gift certificates.

"The outcome was great. The kids enjoyed themselves," added the event coordinator.

Other event sponsors were Bridge Capital, Marianas Printing, Kagman Mobil, Docomo Pacific, Pacific Islands Club, Fiesta Resort, KFC/Taco Bell, Shirley's, J's Restaurant, D&Q, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, McDonald's, Truong's, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, World Resort, R&M Printers, Marinas Agupa, Modern Stationery, Lollipops, Coca-Cola, Foremost, and Big Dipper.

### Senate eyes tax credit for donations to DPH

After passing a controversial bill suspending the educational tax credit in times of austerity comes another Senate bill that would provide tax credit for contributions made to the Department of Public Health.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said contributions received from the proposed health tax credit will go toward buying needed medical equipment at DPH in this order: Up to \$600,000 for the purchase of a CT-scan; up to \$300,000 for a hyperbaric chamber; and up to \$600,000 for new beds for DPH.

Under his Senate Bill 17-71, a person may take cash contributions made during the tax year to DPH as a nonrefundable credit against taxes.

Amounts paid for medical treatment or services are not cash contributions eligible for a credit. (Haidee V. Eugenio)



**A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority**  
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May is Tourism Month in the Northern Marianas, and throughout the month Tourism Tuesday features your opinions on timely tourism topics.

### What do You Feel the Community Should do to Improve Tourism?



*"Bring back the selling of mwar along the side of the street, and be proud to wear islandwear!"*

**Cathy Sablan Cepeda**



*"In spite of the economy, we should show that our island is beautiful and keep tourists safe. We should show they are welcomed here and have friendship with them."*

**Tess Kintaro, left, and Jane Siriban**



*"Start by being kind. Whether it be a smile or a wave, it's just kindness! If everyone was just kind, it would be nice."*

**Jaime Hemley**



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## Mafnas outlines for the Senate ongoing changes at DPS

Acting commissioner Ramon "Ray" C. Mafnas told a Senate panel yesterday of ongoing changes at the Department of Public Safety, with the end goal of raising deserving police officers' wages, further improving public safety services, and ensuring accountability, among other things.

Mafnas called on DPS personnel to embrace changes for the better, and be part of the solutions to problems. He also spoke of providing an opportunity for DPS personnel who use illegal substances to be tested, treated, and counseled, once funding for this program is secured.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) held a public hearing on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's nomination of Mafnas as DPS commissioner.

Mafnas' nomination needs the advice and consent of the Senate.

Police and corrections officers and other members of the public crowded the Senate chamber and gallery to show their support for Mafnas.

Ignacio Demapan, resident executive director of the Indigenous Affairs Office and representing the Fitial administration, presented Mafnas to the Senate EAGI Committee.

All of the eight individuals who testified at the hearing supported Mafnas' nomination. They all asked the committee to recommend Mafnas' confirmation to the full Senate.

### Benefits

Mafnas, in his remarks before the

### Man gets 20 years for 'ice,' marijuana conviction

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed yesterday a 20-year sentence on a man convicted of illegal drug charges.

Manglona said that Ignacio A. Deleon Guerrero Sr.'s prison term will not be subject to parole and suspension.

The judge gave Deleon Guerrero credit for the five months he had already served in jail and required him to pay a total of \$10,500 fine.

The judge allowed attorney James N. Camacho to continue serving as counsel for Deleon Guerrero in case the defendant files an appeal.

Camacho said they respect the court's sentence and that he will be meeting with his client to discuss his options.

Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest had recommended a sentence of 25 years in prison for Deleon Guerrero.

Police arrested Deleon Guerrero on March 10, 2010.

On Dec. 16, 2010, the jury found him guilty of conspiracy of trafficking of a controlled substance ("ice") and illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana). (Ferdie de la Torre)

committee, said DPS personnel's compensation and benefits lag far behind national standards, yet the duties and responsibilities parallel those of their counterparts in the U.S. mainland.

"Morale at DPS and DOC [Department of Corrections] is directly related to compensation and benefits," said Mafnas, who served as DOC commissioner and special adviser to the governor.

Mafnas said he has started putting together a Clearing-

house Committee under the Office of the Commissioner to ensure that equal opportunity exists and an impartial process is in place.

He has also formed a DPS Hiring Committee to ensure that the most qualified applicants are hired.

"Given the CNMI's financial crisis, we must remain patient and innovative in devising ways and means to cut cost, refine processes and procedures, streamline our organizational

structure, and improve overall efficiency..." he said.

### Drug testing

Once DPS secures funding, Mafnas said, its personnel who are using illegal substances will be given an opportunity to step forward and agree to submit to substance abuse counseling and treatment and drug testing with conditions.

"Compliance and satisfactory completion of counseling and treatment will result in full reinstatement; if not, permanent separation from service will follow," he said.

During the question-and-answer, Mafnas said he will not demand respect, "I will earn it."

He also asked for the cooperation, loyalty, and support of everyone at DPS to institute changes for the better amid limited resources.

Mafnas said opposition to changes is expected but DPS personnel are duty-bound to be part of the solution to lend a hand to DPS.

"Self-serving interests breed contention and cause polarization in the department. This must not continue. Indecisiveness leads to lack of action and eventual failure. These will not occur during my watch," he said.

Among those who testified in favor of Mafnas were Attorney General Ed Buckingham, former DPS commissioner Clyde Norita, former attorney general Matthew Gregory, Saipan Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho who also chairs the CNMI Board of Parole and a former police officer, the governor's senior policy adviser Dr. Jon Joyner, Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero of DPS, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) and DPS Tinian resident director Ray Pangelinan.

Deleon Guerrero, in his five-

page testimony, brought up major concerns at DPS but believes that Mafnas' leadership will be able to address these.

"[DPS] was plagued by a major lack of adequate resources, organizational instability, and the absence of competent and decisive leadership. In the process, the morale of the police force had significantly deteriorated, we have been made warriors of internal disputes and in many instances, first line supervisors like myself have been forced to fight high-profile battles and represent the department because our supreme leaders are quite simply, too often, unavailable, or nowhere to be found," he said.

He said the CNMI's police force does not even have police lieutenants, no police majors, has only two police captains and only recently had a director of police, because of lack of promotions, among other things.

(Haidee V. Eugenio)

## Suspect in fake credit card case nabbed in Guam for same scam

A woman who was arrested in November 2010 for allegedly visiting Saipan just to buy expensive items using a fake credit card was arrested by federal agents over the weekend after reportedly using the same modus operandi in Guam.

Wing Yee Tse, also known as Wing Yen Tse, a Chinese national, was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon for an initial court appearance.

An indictment filed on April 27, 2011, in the U.S. District Court for the Territory of Guam charged Tse with two counts of access device fraud and two counts of misuse of immigration document.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John A. Houston said a lawyer will be appointed to represent Tse.

Her detention hearing will be on Wednesday at 3pm.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marivic P. David stated in the indictment that between Sept. 26, 2010, and Sept. 28, 2010, in Guam, Wing Yee Tse used one American Express credit card purportedly issued in the name of Wing Yen

Tse and one Diner's Club credit card purportedly issued in the name of W. Y. Tse.

David said the defendant used the cards in obtaining jewelry and other merchandise from, among others, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Cartier, Rolex, and Lin's Jewelry.

The suspect also allegedly used an American Express credit card purportedly in the name of Wing Yen Tse to obtain Gucci merchandise.

David said that Tse had lied about not being arrested or convicted of any crime so she could obtain a Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Information. The truth is that Tse was previously convicted in Hong Kong for possession of dangerous drugs, David said.

Police first arrested Tse in November 2010 after an alert Louis Vuitton staff, Mylene Indalecio, discovered a misuse of credit cards involving the suspect, who had bought expensive items at DFS in Garapan.

Tse allegedly confessed that her objective in coming to Saipan was to use the fake credit card to buy expensive items. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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**BIN LADEN***From Page 1*

stunning news of his death prompted relief and euphoria outside the White House and around the globe, yet also fears of terrorist reprisals against the United States and its allies.

"Justice has been done," President Barack Obama said in a dramatic announcement at the White House.

The military operation took mere minutes, and there were no U.S. casualties.

U.S. helicopters ferried troops from Navy SEAL Team Six, a top military counter-terrorism unit, into the compound identified by the CIA as bin Laden's hideout—and back out again in less than 40 minutes. Bin Laden was shot in the head, officials said, after he and his bodyguards resisted the assault.

Three adult males were also killed in the raid, including one of bin Laden's sons, whom officials did not name. One of bin Laden's sons, Hamza, is a senior member of al-Qaida. U.S. officials also said one woman was killed when she was used as a shield by a male combatant, and two other women were injured.

The U.S. official who disclosed the burial at sea said it would have been difficult to find a country willing to accept the remains. Obama said the remains had been handled in accordance with Islamic custom, which requires speedy burial.

"I heard a thundering sound, followed by heavy firing. Then firing suddenly stopped. Then more thundering, then a big blast," said Mohammad Haroon Rasheed, a resident of Abbottabad, Pakistan, after the choppers had swooped in and then out again.

The death of the 54-year-old bin Laden marks a psychological triumph in a long struggle that began well before the Sept. 11 attacks. Al-Qaida was also blamed for the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa that killed 231 people and the 2000 attack on the USS Cole that killed 17 American sailors in Yemen, as well as countless other plots, some successful and some foiled.

In all, nearly 3,000 were killed in the Sept. 11 attacks nearly 10 years ago, the

worst terror assault on American soil.

Moments after Obama's dramatic late-night announcement on Sunday, the State Department warned of the heightened possibility for anti-American violence. In a worldwide travel alert, the department said there was an "enhanced potential for anti-American violence given recent counterterrorism activity in Pakistan."

As news of bin Laden's death spread, hundreds of people cheered and waved American flags at ground zero in New York, the site where al-Qaida hijacked jets toppled the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Thousands celebrated all night outside the White House gates.

As dawn came the crowd had thinned yet some still flowed in to be a part of it. A couple people posed for photographs in front of the White House while holding up front pages of Monday's newspapers announcing bin Laden's death.

"It's a moment people have been waiting for," said, Eric Sauter, 22, a University of Delaware student who drove to Washington after seeing TV coverage of the celebrations.

The development seems certain to give Obama a political lift as the nation swelled in pride. Even Republican critics lauded him.

But its ultimate impact on al-Qaida is less clear.

The greatest terrorist threat to the U.S. is now considered to be the al-Qaida franchise in Yemen, far from al-Qaida's core in Pakistan. The Yemen branch almost took down a U.S.-bound airliner on Christmas 2009 and nearly detonated explosives aboard two U.S. cargo planes last fall. Those operations were carried out without any direct involvement from bin Laden.

The few fiery minutes in Abbottabad followed years in which U.S. officials struggled to piece together clues that ultimately led to bin Laden, according to an account provided by senior administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the operation.

Based on statements given by U.S. detainees since the Sept. 11 attacks, they said, intelligence officials have long known that bin Laden trusted one

The power poles project is funded using Capital Improvement Project funds provided the CNMI through the Office of Insular Affairs, which is under Interior.

Tina Sablan, former House representative and a member of Friends of Marpi, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that they are very pleased as well as relieved with the court's decision to grant the preliminary injunction.

"We appreciate the court's encouragement to both parties to come together for meaningful discussions over the next 90 days," Sablan said.

She said they hope that the government will finally begin conducting public hearings and considering the full range of alternatives that can meet the needs of the cemetery without compromising the beauty and integrity of Marpi.

Sablan thanked all the members of the community "who have united" in the effort to keep Marpi pristine.

She urged the public to continue to write letters and express concerns to elected officials and participate in any public hearings or meetings that may arise.

"Let's bring to the table all of our ideas for resolving not only this immediate issue of the power poles, but also the long-term issue of developing a vi-

al-Qaida courier in particular, and they believed he might be living with him in hiding.

Four years ago, the United States learned the man's identity, which officials did not disclose, and then about two years later, they identified areas of Pakistan where he operated. Last August, the man's residence was found, officials said.

"Intelligence analysis concluded that this compound was custom built in 2005 to hide someone of significance," with walls as high as 18 feet (5 1/2 meters) and topped by barbed wire, according to one official. Despite the compound's estimated \$1 million cost and two security gates, it had no phone or Internet running into the house.

By mid-February, intelligence from multiple sources was clear enough that Obama wanted to "pursue an aggressive course of action," a senior administration official said. Over the next two and a half months, the president led five meetings of the National Security Council focused solely on whether bin Laden was in that compound and, if so, how to get him, the official said.

Obama made a decision to launch the operation on Friday, shortly before flying to Alabama to inspect tornado damage, and aides set to work on the details.

The president spent part of his Sunday on the golf course, but cut his round short to return to the White House for a meeting where he and top national security aides reviewed final preparations for the raid.

Two hours later, Obama was told that bin Laden had been tentatively identified.

CIA director Leon Panetta was directly in charge of the military team during the operation, according to one official, and when he and his aides received word at agency headquarters that bin Laden had been killed, cheers broke out around the conference room table.

Administration aides said the operation was so secretive that no foreign officials were informed in advance, and only a small circle inside the U.S. government was aware of what was unfolding half a world away.

In his announcement, Obama said he

sion and a plan that appropriately balance the need for sustainable economic development with the need to preserve Marpi's historic, cultural, scenic, and natural resources for present and future generations," Sablan said.

At the hearing, Govendo urged the media to investigate who, if there is any, should benefit from the development of Marpi.

The judge suggested that a politician, whom he did not name, may possibly be behind this planned development in Marpi.

"Suspicious are warranted. I don't know what's going on there," he said.

Govendo said dead people in the cemetery don't need electric power.

"Marpi is a beautiful area and the public have the right to be concerned," the judge said.

Attorney David Banes argued for Friends of Marpi and co-plaintiffs, while assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnblrich argued for the CNMI government and co-defendants.

On April 19, Govendo granted the plaintiffs' motion for a temporary restraining order to momentarily stop the CNMI government from installing more power poles in Marpi until the evidentiary hearing is completed.

had called Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari after the raid, and said it was "important to note that our counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan helped lead us to bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding."

One senior administration told reporters, though, "we were very concerned ... that he was inside Pakistan, but this is something we're going to continue to work with the Pakistani government on."

The compound is about a half-mile from a Pakistani military academy, in a city that is home to three army regiments and thousands of military personnel. Abbottabad is surrounded by hills and with mountains in the distance.

Critics have long accused elements of Pakistan's security establishment of protecting bin Laden, though Islamabad has always denied it, and in a statement the foreign ministry said his death showed the country's resolve in the battle against terrorism.

**NMI***From Page 1*

Still, bin Laden's location raised pointed questions of whether Pakistani authorities knew the whereabouts of the world's most wanted man.

Whatever the global repercussions, bin Laden's death marked the end to a manhunt that consumed most of a decade that began in the grim hours after bin Laden's hijackers flew planes into the World Trade Center twin towers in Manhattan and the Pentagon across the Potomac River from Washington. A fourth plane was commandeered by passengers who overcame the hijackers and forced the plane to crash in the Pennsylvania countryside.

Former President George W. Bush, who was in office on the day of the attacks, issued a written statement hailing bin Laden's death as a momentous achievement. "The fight against terror goes on, but tonight America has sent an unmistakable message: No matter how long it takes, justice will be done," he said.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), who served in Iraq in October 2004 to January 2006, said yesterday that one of the first things he thought about when he learned about bin Laden's demise were his fellow men in uniform who lost their lives in the battle against terrorism.

"I thought about the late Army Staff Sgt. Wilgene Lieto and the late Army Spc. Derence W. Jack. I served with them in Iraq, and they lost their lives. We were in the same unit, we were all deployed together. Before that, a classmate of mine was also killed, Army Sgt. Yihghy 'Eddie' L. Chen," he said in an interview.

Lieto and Jack were killed on Oct. 31, 2005, during a patrol mission in Balad, Iraq, while Chen was killed on April 4, 2004.

Yumul said bin Laden's death is a milestone in the war against terror.

"I'm thankful he's gone. It just goes to show our perseverance, especially 10 years after the 9/11 attacks," he added.

Yumul urged residents to take the time to remember those who lost their lives and who served and are still serving, not only in the hunt against bin Laden but other terrorists as well.

**'We must remain vigilant'**

Fitial also said while people find solace and consolation in knowing that the "face of terror" has fallen, "we must remain vigilant and determined in ensuring the continued security of our islands, our people, and our country."

The governor said the CNMI government will continue to work with its national counterparts to ensure that the fundamental principles of national security remain a top priority.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, in a separate statement, said bin Laden's death does not end the determination to pursue those who threaten the nation.

"Despite this positive news, we have more to do as a nation to address and eliminate the fundamental issues supporting terrorism. Osama bin Laden's death will serve as a rallying point for our men and women in uniform who continue to serve our nation in harm's way. His death also closes a painful chapter in our nation's history and for the families of those who lost loved ones on 9/11 or in missions supporting our global war on terrorism," she said.

Other residents said they're happy bin Laden is gone, and will continue to pray for those still in the battlefields, hoping they will come back home soon to the CNMI.

**JUDGE***From Page 1*

Govendo granted the request of Friends of Marpi and co-plaintiffs for the preliminary injunction after completing the evidentiary hearing that lasted more than two hours yesterday.

Govendo said he will issue a written decision. In that ruling he will include a request to the Department of the Interior "to do whatever they should do" regarding the power poles project.

"Attention must be paid," Govendo said. "I hope this is the start of something," referring to other future government projects.

Govendo said the least the government can do is listen to Friends of Marpi, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and various other organizations.

"The government should look at them as allies," he pointed out.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has sought information from Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula about steps that the Department of the Interior or its grantee, the CNMI, took to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act over the installation of the power poles.

# IT&E's 15-year lease extension on Rota approved

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

After a lengthy discussion about constitutional provisions on public land leases, the Legislature approved yesterday IT&E's request for a 15-year extension to its 25-year public land lease on Rota.

The area is about 8,049 square meters in Sabana, Rota.

In its second joint session since the 17th Legislature came in, the Senate and House of Representatives approved the lease extension by a vote of 25-0 with one abstention and

three absences.

In the 20-member House, 16 voted "yes" and no one voted "no"; Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) abstained.

Reps. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) and Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) were absent.

All the nine members of the Senate led by its president, Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), voted "yes."

The Legislature's approval is required for any 15-year land lease extension under Article XI of the CNMI Constitution. At least three-fourths of

the members of each chamber are needed for the extension request's approval.

Micronesian Telecommunications Corp.—which does business as IT&E—welcomed the Legislature's approval.

Larry Knecht, executive vice president of IT&E, thanked the Legislature for recognizing the need for continued development of telecommunications on Rota.

"It's a good day for us," he said after the joint session.

Knecht said IT&E has a number of projects that, once completed, will further contribute to the development of telecommunications not only on Rota but the whole CNMI as well.

Prior to the voting and discussion, Eric Barcenas, a telecommunications technician with

IT&E on Rota, asked lawmakers to approve the lease extension for continued infrastructure development as well as homeland security.

IT&E's 25-year lease expired on March 12.

The telecommunications company currently pays the Department of Public Lands \$2,348.01 annually for the Rota lease.

Now that the 15-year extension is approved, the annual rental for the first five years will be \$2,465.40, as Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta stated earlier.

The original lease signed on Sept. 13, 1985, was for the construction, operation and maintenance of transmitters and antennas for microwave radio and

associated facilities.

DPL wrote to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) on Feb. 24, urging the Legislature to approve IT&E's request to extend its lease to 2026, citing economic benefits.

## Senate tightens rule

Manglona, during the joint session yesterday, shared with the House members the Senate's decision to tighten its rules when it comes to approving public land leases.

Senators adopted on Friday a resolution that states the Senate will not approve any public land leases requiring the approval of the Senate unless DPL publishes a request for proposal to lease

public land at least a year before the expiration or after termination of an existing lease.

The Senate requires this to ensure that DPL gets the best offer among investors.

The resolution, however, exempts from the restrictions any public land leases necessary for developing or enhancing CNMI infrastructure, including water, power, and telecommunications.

This exemption was why the Senate approved IT&E's request.

Manglona said senators adopted Senate Resolution 17-48 as a precautionary measure just in case the House does not pass Senate Bill 17-50, Senate Substitute 1, which requires DPL to publish an RFP to lease public land at least a year before the expiration or after termination of an existing lease. That bill now heads to the House.

## BOE cites negative effect of suspending ETC for schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Board of Education, through chairperson Marylou S. Ada, has expressed the group's disappointment with the desire of lawmakers to suspend the educational tax credit donations to schools, saying this will adversely impact not just private schools but also public ones.

Senate Bill 17-68, which suspends the ETC program, is now on the governor's table after the House passed it last week despite opposition from public and private schools, educators, parents, and students. The bill estimates that \$2 million will be funneled directly to the general fund.

"If private schools do not get the ETC, which majority of them depends, that means a lot of those parents who cannot afford to pay for their children's expenses in private schools will be going to public schools. At this point, we're trying to make whatever we have with our limited budget. With the budget cut, that means we're back to square one—overcrowding in our public schools," she told *Saipan Tribune* at their recent meeting.

## Jury trials begin in domestic violence, knife assault cases

The Superior Court held separate jury trials yesterday for a man accused of beating up his wife and another man who allegedly chased a person with a knife.

Associate Judge David Wiseman and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja completed the selection of jurors who will decide the fate of defendants John Mendiola Camacho and Noel Saluta.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, the alleged victims in both cases were still on the witness stand.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorfung first called to the witness stand Camacho's wife.

According to police, Camacho beat up his wife in front of her three children at their residence in Garapan in November 2010.

Camacho was then arrested for

PSS is home to nearly 11,000 students from kindergarten to high school. It has over 500 classroom teachers in 20 campuses. Ada believes that the system—with its limited resources—is not capable of handling more than the existing student population.

"Our schools are holding enough students. With the influx from private schools, we're going to sacrifice the quality of education we have for our students. We don't want to do that. We're very pleased with our benchmarks and student assessment because they're doing well. We're above the national level and we're doing something right here," she said.

According to Ada, the education tax credit helps schools realize many of their activities and projects. Last school year, a large amount from the ETC account was used to send members of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band to the Carnegie Hall competition in New York City.

She said that putting more students in public schools would mean additional teachers, materials, and resources for each campus.

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# Fund: \$792K 'uncollectible' from suspended home loan program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Of the \$5.5 million that was invested in the NMI Retirement Fund's defunct home loan program, nearly \$800,000 has yet to be collected from borrowers. Worse, that amount may no longer be collectible, according to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez.

"Out of the \$5.5 million we invested, we're estimating that based on the level of delinquency over \$792,000 maybe uncollectible," Villagomez told the Fund's board of trustees during Thursday's meeting.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the program has 108 total borrowers, of whom 39 percent were delinquent as of December.

The board suspended the program early this year for this

reason. The suspension stops the Fund from entertaining new applicants.

The Fund said it also failed to generate the projected revenue because the collection effort was hampered by the current economic situation.

For board member Adelina Roberto, \$792,000 is a substantial amount that could help the agency pay for its other obligations.

"That's a big uncollectible! So what will happen after issuing them the final notice?" she asked during the meeting.

Villagomez admitted it would be hard to collect the amount at this time but stressed that these are not "dead accounts."

"Not all of them are dead accounts. Actually, we're still receiving payment from them; it's just that they remain de-

linquent. But we will pursue collection based on our regulation," Villagomez assured, adding that delinquent borrowers are given options to pay their loan obligations.

He said several demand

letters have been sent to delinquent borrowers and, with no satisfying response, the Fund will now work toward foreclosure.

The Fund earlier confirmed that a significant number of ex-

isting borrowers have sought assistance from the agency—not in the form of payment deferral but through reduction of loan interest that continue to drag them down.

The home loan program is

among the four local investments of the Fund. It was suspended in the past but was re-opened in July 2010 with \$1 million as revolving fund. The home loan program allows short-term loan payment.



Volunteers pose for a group photo after the "Plant a Tree" event organized by the Division of Environmental Quality last Friday. The event culminated this year's Environmental Awareness Month celebration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Volunteers plant 105 trees

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A total of 105 trees were planted during the "Plant a Tree" event on April 29.

Organized by the Division of Environmental Quality, the event capped this year's Environmental Awareness Month

celebration.

Coordinator Greg Reyes said that CNMI Forestry provided four different kinds of young trees—fagot, pink tacoma, plumeria, and mahogany—that were planted in five locations.

"These trees will be good for our environment since they will hold the soil to prevent erosion. It will also help beautify our islands and help our tourism industry," he added.

Reyes said over 80 individuals from eight agencies and organizations volunteered their time to help plant the trees.

"We want to thank them for their participation. Hopefully,

they can continue to be volunteers in next year's event," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

Emanuel Borja, 2011 Environmental Awareness Month Committee chair, said the great thing about the event is that, although planting trees involves hard work, its beauty "remains for years to come."

"As the trees grow, we hope that they serve as a permanent and constant reminder that we, the people of the CNMI, take an active role in keeping our islands clean and beautiful," said Borja.

## Diocese of CK observes John Paul II beatification

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The beatification of Pope John Paul II was integrated in Sunday's liturgical celebrations to observe the departed pope step closer to sainthood.

Fr. Ryan Jimenez, apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, said the liturgy for the 6pm Mass at the Mount Carmel Cathedral pre-

sided by Fr. Jesse Reyes was also known as the Divine Mercy Sunday.

Divine Mercy Sunday was established by the late pope himself, he said.

"Prayers, homily, among others were geared toward this momentous event in the Catholic Church," he said.

According to Jimenez, Pope Benedict XVI described John Paul II as blessed because of

his "strong, generous, and apostolic faith."

"Blessed Pope John Paul II inspired the Catholic faithful during his pontificate. His charisma, both for the young and old, his efforts at uniting peoples of different faith backgrounds, his devotion to the Blessed Mother, his deep love for his faith will continue to serve as an inspiration to all of us today," added Jimenez.

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**"NMHC TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE"**

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation wishes to inform those interested bidders present at the mandatory pre-bid conference for the above mentioned Invitation for Bid, that Amendment #01 will reflect the changes on the Bid Submission date from May 3, 2011 to May 10, 2011-10:00 am at the Procurement & Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane  
Board Chairwoman  
& Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Division of Procurement & Supply

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**Tinian:** 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach  
**Rota:** 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – RHI Ball Field (Teno'te Chapel)

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## Homebound *man'amko* get reprieve from austerity

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Homebound clients of the Aging Center can now receive their meals during austerity Fridays as the employees in charge of preparing these meals have been exempted from the measure, according to the center's director, Rose Mondala.

Mondala, in an interview before the signing of the Older Americans Month proclamation on Friday, said she made the request to accommodate the food needs of homebound clients.

"Our kitchen staff and drivers are now exempted from the austerity so they can prepare and deliver the meals for our homebound *man'amko*," she told reporters.

According to Mondala, she was informed about the exemption on April 21, a Thursday. They started delivering food on an austerity Friday the next day.

Mondala said there are currently some 150 homebound clients on island, including their caregivers, who will benefit from the austerity exemption.

The director said the exemption also covers Tinian and Rota. There are about 30 to 33 homebound clients on Tinian and 40 to 42 on Rota.

Mondala noted, however, that the Aging Center will remain closed for congregates or the *man'amko* who go to the center to participate in activities and have their meals.

Teresita Sorroza, Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair, said she is pleased to know about the austerity exemption for the employees preparing the meals of homebound clients.

She maintained, though, that the Aging Center should also be opened to congregates on austerity Fridays.

"We will continue our fight to have the center exempted from austerity," she added.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council pose with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, DCCA deputy secretary Rhonda Nogis, and Office on Aging director Rose Mondala after the signing of a proclamation designating May as Older Americans Month at the Aging Center on Friday.

## Humanities Council elects officers

Tracy M. Guerrero was re-elected board chair of the NMI Council for the Humanities during a special meeting on Wednesday. The board also elected Jerold Facey vice chair and re-elected Joann T. Aquino secretary/treasurer.

Guerrero, who serves as Director of Courts at the CNMI Judiciary, was first elected board

chair in April 2010. Before joining the courts, Guerrero spent six years as a senior analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in San Francisco. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkley and an MBA from California State University at Hayward.

Facey, a Saipan resident

for more than 40 years, is administrator of the Prior Service Trust Fund. He is active in a number of community organizations including the American Red Cross and the Northern Marianas College Foundation, and has chaired official Commonwealth events commemorating the World War II battles for Saipan and Tinian. Facey joined the Humanities Council in 2010.

Aquino joined the board in 2009 and was first elected secretary/treasurer in 2010. She currently serves as the manager of the Ayuda Network's Basic Center Program, a runaway and homeless shelter for the youth. Aquino attended the University of Guam and Ashworth College and is active in a number of community and professional organizations in the CNMI.

Guerrero said she is honored

to have been re-elected as board chair by her colleagues and pledged to continue the important work of the council.

"In spite of budget uncertainties, the council will sponsor a variety of humanities programs during 2011," Guerrero said.

These programs include an initiative on geo-tourism, a history institute for classroom teachers, translation projects to document traditional Carolinian

history and culture, several student projects, and a special event to mark the council's 20th anniversary. The council will also continue its popular Motherread Family Literacy Program and its weekly radio program.

The council is a private, non-profit organization established in 1991. Additional information about its programs and community grants is available at [www.nmihumanities.org](http://www.nmihumanities.org). (PR)

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# DFS Galleria presents \$1K to NMC Foundation

Duty Free Shoppers Galleria recently presented a \$1,000 donation to the Northern Marianas College Foundation in support of the NMC Foundation's 9th Annual Open golf tournament.

"We would like to express our appreciation to the DFS Galleria for their continued support of post secondary education in the CNMI," said NMC Foundation vice president Ivan Quichoco. "This donation will greatly help us enhance NMC's programs and services."

The NMC Foundation is a nonprofit organization composed of community volunteers committed to improving higher education opportunities for students in the CNMI. The organization accomplishes this mainly through raising critical funds for the college.

"NMC has been providing the community with educational opportunities and helping professionals advance in the CNMI's workforce," said DFS

## Energy Division re-opens appliance rebate program

The CNMI Energy Division has re-opened the State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program to provide CNMI residents the opportunity to buy qualified energy-efficient Energy Star rated appliances. The re-opening is available for a limited time only and rebate vouchers will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis while rebate vouchers lasts.

Because rebate vouchers are limited, the CNMI Division of Energy, in partnership with participating retailers, will be hosting a one-day only in-store sales promotional events on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The program covers three types of qualified energy-efficient Energy Star rated appliances: clothes washers, refrigerators and window type room air-conditioner units.

The new rebate amounts are as follows:

- Clothes washers: \$500
- Refrigerators: \$500
- Window-type A/C units: \$200

Additional rebate vouchers for Tinian and Rota recipients remain unchanged.

Staff from the CNMI Division Office will be available to assist applicants at the store and will only be accepting and processing completed applications. Upon approval and issuance of rebate vouchers, recipients are required to redeem appliance rebate vouchers at the store location they submitted an application. Available rebate vouchers are as follows:

Tinian	Rota	Saipan
■ Refrigerators	5	1
■ Clothes washers	5	0
■ Window-type A/C	5	9

For individuals on our waitlist for Saipan who have already submitted applications to the CNMI Division of Energy, you will be contacted directly for additional instructions prior to the re-opening on Saipan.

The one-day only in-store sales promotional events are scheduled for the following days:

- Rota: Saturday, May 21, at 9am, Ace Hardware (Rota branch)
- Tinian: Saturday, May 7, at 9am, Pacific Home Appliance Store, San Jose, Tinian
- Saipan: The launching for Saipan will be announced at a later time.

In addition to the re-opening of the program, the CNMI Energy Division was also granted approval to reimburse individuals who have purchased qualified appliances the difference of the new rebate amount. In other words, if an individual purchased an appliance with a \$300 rebate voucher, that individual will be reimbursed the difference of the new rebate amount of \$500 which is \$200.

For Tinian and Rota recipients, reimbursement checks will be distributed at the event locations on the dates stated above. For Saipan recipients, reimbursement checks will be distributed once they become available.

In order to receive your reimbursement check, you must present a valid CNMI driver's license, U.S. passport, or any other valid CNMI I.D. (PR)



Galleria general manager Vorasuda Luna. "We are happy to be part of an event that promotes higher education in the CNMI."

The 9th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament was held at the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort on Saturday, April 30, 2011. More than 140 players participated in the tournament. The top winner in

## NMC Charter Day auditions start today; vendors invited

The Northern Marianas College 2011 Charter Day Committee will be holding auditions for the celebration's remaining competitions: the Dance Crew Competition Challenge and the Battle of the Bands.

All auditions are being held in the Student Center located in Building J.

- Battle of the Bands: Tuesday, May 3, at 5pm
- Dance Crew Competition: Wednesday, May 4, at 5pm

For the Battle of the Bands auditions, bands are required to bring their own equipment.

Those interested in competing may pick up an application form from the NMC Student Center in Building J at the college's As Terlaje campus or log on to [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu) and download an application. There is no application fee for any of the competitions.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate by purchasing booth space for the following

## CACP scholarship deadline set

The College Access Challenge Project is currently accepting applications for its CACP 2011-2012 Scholarship Program, which awards up to \$1,200 per semester to high school juniors, seniors, and first-year college students with low-income backgrounds.

The CACP program is an outreach program, designed to assist students with low-income backgrounds enter and succeed in college, by offering support services and financial aid.

The purpose of the scholarship is to assist recipients with the costs associated with college enrollment. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must:

- Be a high school junior, senior, or a first-year college student (having no more than 30 credits).
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S., which includes citizens of the U.S. Freely Associated States of Micronesia.

DFS Galleria general manager Vorasuda Luna presents a \$1,000 check to NMC Foundation vice president Ivan Quichoco in support of the NMC Foundation's 9th Annual Open golf tournament.

NMC

Continental flies in Asia and Micronesia. Second place winner for each flight received \$300, and third place winner for each flight received \$200.

The NMC Foundation Open golf tournament is the NMC Foundation's signature fund raising event. Funds previously raised have been used to furnish the English Language Institute in Building M with brand new computers and network infrastructure. (NMC)

categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), game booths, retail (arts, and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is on Thursday, May 5, 2011. There will be prizes for the booths that win the best décor and best dish competitions.

The booth fee is \$150—\$50 of the fee will be refunded upon cleanup of the booth space after the event. Club booths are \$50 and also include a \$25 refund upon booth space cleanup.

The Northern Marianas College 30th Annual Charter Day will be held on Friday, May 6, 2011, at the As Terlaje campus from 4pm to 10pm.

For more information about auditions or entertainment, contact L.J. Castro at 234-5498 Ext. 1253 or email [luisjohnc@nmcnet.edu](mailto:luisjohnc@nmcnet.edu). For booth vending contact Rose Pangelinan at 234-5498 Ext. 1253 or email [rosep@nmcnet.edu](mailto:rosep@nmcnet.edu). (NMC)

## Conditions set for MVA's use of aviation fuel tax

The Senate is willing to earmark earnings from the aviation fuel tax to fund promotional activities of the Marianas Visitors Authority provided separate tourism offices will be established each for Tinian and Rota. Senators are anticipated to meet with their counterparts in the House of Representatives to discuss a possible compromise agreement, seen to pacify conflicting views of both houses of the Legislature on how to revive CNMI's tourism industry. While both chambers are one in working out a way to alleviate the travel sector's condition, they differ in opinion on how to effectively achieve their goals faster.

## Gaming machines at Saipan airport eyed

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seriously looking at all alternatives to work out an agreement with DFS-Saipan to allow the installation of gaming machines at the Saipan International Airport. CPA and DFS-Saipan are tied by the master concession agreement with grants the duty-free firm the sole authority to operate commercial establishments inside the main terminal of the air transport facility on the island. CPA officials said plans are now underway to discuss with DFS executives for the possible installation of gaming machines at the airport as part of efforts to strengthen its revenue-generating capacity without increasing aviation charges.

# Flashback

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 3, 1999

### NMC board adopts rules for aid

The Board of Regents adopted the new set of rules to govern the Spring 1999 Supplemental Grant designed to benefit qualified students of the Northern Marianas College, including recipients of Pell grant. During a board meeting Friday, fiscal committee chairman Ramon Villagomez said students who are not getting Pell grant and are carrying less than 12 credits will receive \$90 for each credit. Those students with 12 to 15 credits will be given \$1,000 for the entire semester, while those carrying the load higher than 15 credits can expect \$1,100 supplemental grant. Students who are recipients of Pell grant will only get \$40 per credit for that semester. Last school year, the Pell grant allocation for each student was \$2,700 and was expected to increase to \$3,000 in the following year.

### CNMI claims territorial sea from US

The CNMI, through its Attorney General's Office, is seeking an order from the U.S. district Court declaring its rightful ownership over its land boundaries, territories and archipelagic baseline. In a civil action filed against the U.S. last Friday, the local government outlines several points which the defendant has violated in claiming ownership and control of submerged lands in the CNMI. According to the brief, such actions are in excess of the defendant's constitutional and statutorily authority and are in violation of the United Nations trusteeship agreement. In August 1997, the CNMI gave the U.S. Secretary of Interior a notice of its intention to file a suit and never got a response.

May 3, 2000

### Juvenile Code under review

Proposed amendments to the existing CNMI Juvenile Code are underway. Juvenile Corrections/Probation Supervisor Sylvio Ada said yesterday, revealing meetings held between the Division of Youth Services and the CNMI Legislature on the said initiative. Mr. Ada said DYS officials recently met with Reps. Malua Peter and Brigida Ichihara, who have asked the Juvenile Corrections Division to conduct a thorough review of the five-page DYS provisions under the four-volume CNMI Criminal Justice Code. "The legislators asked us to go ahead and review the criminal code," said Ada. Lawmakers have asked DYS to present its recommendations at the end of this month.

### EPA to begin water sampling: SGMA gets notice from DEQ

The Division of Environmental Quality has informed the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association about the plan of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take one water sample from each private well on the island. DEQ Director Ignacio Cabrera said the sample will be analyzed by a DEQ-certified drinking water laboratory for volatile organic chemicals. Samples will not be analyzed for any of the other contaminants that must be monitored by the water systems, DEQ said. A team from U.S. EPA with the private contractors will carry out the tests on water wells with the assistance of DEQ staff.

May 3, 2001

### Conditions set for MVA's use of aviation fuel tax

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# Crime Stoppers reaches new level of success in 2010

A record number of tips were received by the NMI Crime Stoppers in 2010 and the chapter had more arrests, tips, cases cleared,

and recoveries of guns, cash, property, and drugs in 2010 than in the previous years as well.

The Crime Stoppers program

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### SSHs PTSA meeting tomorrow

Saipan Southern High School will have its PTSA meeting tomorrow, May 4, 2011, at 6-7pm in the Manta cafeteria. (PR)

### OES PTSA meeting on Thursday

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School is informing parents and guardians of OES students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2011, 6pm in the school cafeteria. (PR)

### MHS class of 1981 reunion meeting

The Marianas High School's Class of 1981 will have a class reunion meeting on Saturday, May 7, 2011, at 5:30-6pm on Beach Road Middle Pavilion just north of the 13 Fishermen's Memorial in Garapan. All MHS 1981 graduates are encouraged to attend this important meeting to finalize the agendas, programs and target reunion date set for June 2011. For more information, contact Donald M. San Nicolas at 237-3791, Che'Q. Di Guerrero at 237-3625, or Diana T. Takai at 236-8383. (PR)

### SCC general membership meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly general membership meeting tomorrow, May 4, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle ballroom. This month's meeting will focus on aviation service between Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam. Already confirmed are Carlos Santos from Fly Guam and Dennis Cruz from Freedom Air. Continental/Cape Air has been invited to attend as well.

Lunch starts at 11:30am, with the meeting starting at noon. Luncheon is \$15 for SCC members and \$20 for non-SCC members and guests. (SCC)

### SCC Corporate Challenge set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual SCC Corporate Challenge Sunday, May 29, 2011, at the Minatchom Atdao in Susupe at 9:30am. Registration begins at 7:30am. To date, 10 teams have submitted applications. SC traditionally accepts entries from SCC only, but this year has decided to open up registration to non-SCC member companies. SCC members can enter for \$300 and non-SCC member entry is \$400.

The SCC Corporate Challenge is a fun event that can be used as a company outing or employee appreciation day. There are competitive races and

games with prizes, and a judged tent competition. This year's theme is "Island Style Recycling" where recycled material will be used to decorate individual corporate entry tents. A panel of judges will decide the winners. (SCC)

### Deadline for SCC scholarship applications, awards

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications for its annual college scholarship awards. The deadline for submission is May 6, 2011, at 5pm. The awards will be announced at the SCC General Membership meeting on June 1, 2011. The SCC High School Workshop for graduates will be held Saturday, April 29, 2011 at 8am at the Pete P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose in Susupe. (SCC)

### DEQ Brigade to clean up Tanapag Beach Park

The Division of Environmental Quality monthly Cleanup Brigade is picking up trash at Tanapag Beach Park in Tanapag on Saturday, May 7. Those interested in cleaning and beautifying the island may meet the DEQ representative at 8am in the parking lot.

Volunteers will split into groups and clean east and west until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will get a green brigade T-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (DEQ)

### AMA UOG Collegiate Chapter Conference

The American Marketing Association – UOG Collegiate Chapter is hosting their Annual Marketing Conference on Friday, May 6, from 8:30am to 4pm at the Hyatt Regency Guam. This year's theme is "Green Marketing: Green is the Color of Money."

Explore creative and beneficial ideas for greening your organization, identify green business opportunities, investigate what it means to be green, and find ways to improve profitability while helping to save the planet. The keynote speaker will be Nicholas Pape from Recurrent Energy, San Francisco, Calif., who will be discussing alternative energy sources and profitable green business models. The conference fee is \$35 per person and free for SBPA students. For information and registration contact T. O'Brien at 735-2533. (UOG)

allows everyday citizens to provide anonymous tips to help solve crimes and make their communities and neighborhoods safer. The program's success can be attributed to the use of a 24-hour calling center. The call center is an off-island business that takes tips at all hours of the day. When a tip is phoned in, no matter the time of day, someone will answer the call, take the information, and pass it along to the local Crime Stoppers coordinator, police officer Jason Tarkong. Also available to tipsters is the option to submit a tip via the Internet by logging on to [www.nmicerimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicerimestoppers.com) and clicking on the Submit a web tip. In either case, all tips remain anonymous, and tip providers are never asked for their name. Additionally, Crime Stoppers recognizes that the driving force behind its success is that the community understands that Crime Stoppers is a tool they can use to keep the CNMI safer, and they are using it.

Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization led by citizens

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 110 tips received
- 21 arrests made
- 63 cases cleared
- 1 fugitive captured
- 49 charged with crimes
- \$51,750 value of property recovered
- \$207,000 value of drugs recovered

against crime. The NMI Crime Stoppers program offers cash rewards of up to \$1,000 to persons providing information that leads to an arrest. Every call is treated with absolute anonymity so that nobody will know the identity of the caller. Rewards are also paid without compromising a caller's anonymity.

In an attempt to promote the mission of Crime Stoppers, a scholastic committee headed by officer Tarkong makes presentations in schools. Additionally, Crime Stoppers collaborates with other community programs to promote citizenship and accountability, with DPS doing the investigations and ar-

rests and the Attorney General's Office and other agencies prosecuting the perpetrators.

As a continuing effort to encourage the community's participation in the program, in 2010 the CNMI's high school students were encouraged to participate in a Create-A-Commercial Contest that resulted in the NMI Crime Stoppers being awarded the 2010 Media Award for communities with a population of less than 75,000. This was the first international award for the NMI program, based on the 30-second commercial produced by MHS student Gester Garcia and Oliver Patris.

One of the more high profile cases cleared last year was the sentencing of Eric Rabauliman, who was found guilty of the first-degree murder of Efren Ballesteros, an MHS security guard. The sentencing of his two co-defendants will occur this year. A tip received by Crime Stoppers led to the arrest of these murderers.

To promote community involvement, the NMI Crime Stoppers is partnering with lo-

cal businesses for the 10th Annual Crime Stoppers Softball Tournament on May 7-8 at the Capital Hill Baseball Park, beginning at 9am each day.

As a non-profit organization, Crime Stoppers relies on community donations to keep the program operational. Local Crime Stoppers president Sean Frink invites the community to come and enjoy some good fun while watching friends and family play softball.

"We want to sincerely thank each of the outstanding softball tournament sponsors—Aon, Bridge Capital, Delta Air Lines, Docomo, Duty Free Shoppers, Gold's Gym, IT&E, Marpac, Marianas Cable Vision, MegaByte, Pacific Island Club, and Shell/IP&E—for assisting us in making a great difference in our community. In addition, we wish to thank our partners in law enforcement, the media, and anonymous callers that provide the tips we need to solve crime in the CNMI," the NMI program said in a statement.

(Crime Stoppers)



### UOG MATH COMPETITION WINNERS

The University of Guam's Division of Mathematical Sciences presented awards to the winners of the Math Contest that was held each month from November 2010 – March 2011. High School category winners are: Harvest Christian Academy's Chris Cho and Kevin Cho, who tied for first place; Peter Leng, second place, St. Thomas Aquinas; John Kim, third place, Harvest Christian Academy. The contest is also open to members of the community and Chuck White won first and Weslie Bunn won second place in the Other Participants Category. Pictured from left are: Kim; Leng; Alicia Aguon, UOG mathematics faculty; Carl Swanson, UOG computer science faculty; Christopher Cho; Hideo Nagahashi, UOG mathematics faculty; Kevin Cho; Grazyna Badowski, UOG mathematics faculty; Weslie Bunn; and Lee Yudin, dean of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

### SUPER READER

Fourth-grader Jeter Jenkins of Saipan International School does not know the meaning of the word "enough" when it comes to reading. This school year he has read 171 books and over 2,393,673 words. The Accelerated Reader Program at SIS is in its second year and has improved reading comprehension and vocabulary from grades K to 9. Jeter has acquired over 350 points that he uses to obtain prizes. After 34 weeks of school, the fourth graders needed 112 points. Jeter has surpassed that by 238 points. With a reading level of 6.1, Jeter continues to pile up the points. Jeter is one of the many "Super Readers" at SIS. Way to go Jeter!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated birthday greetings to our princess, Bennylynn Remykae B. Ada, who celebrated her 14th birthday on April 29, 2011, at Saipan Grand Hotel. May you have many more birthday blasts coming. We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom and the rest of the Koberville family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### 'Birthers' can shut up

President Obama had little choice in releasing his long-form birth certificate, although it's unlikely to satisfy the obsessed conspiracy crowd.

The insane conversation over Obama's place of birth was growing louder, fueled irresponsibly by Donald Trump, of all people. As if to heighten the absurdity, Trump took "credit" Wednesday for forcing the president to release the document.

Said Obama, "We're not going to be able to solve our problems if we get distracted by sideshows and carnival barkers. We do not have time for this kind of silliness. We have better stuff to do. I have got better stuff to do."

The state of Hawaii doesn't usually release the long form of a person's birth certificate. Hawaii provides a shorter form, as it did for Obama earlier, which satisfies legal requirements about proof of birthplace.

But last Friday, Obama requested that an exception be made to release the long form as well. That he felt compelled to quell the paranoid among us must be counted as a low point in our national discourse.

The "birther" conversation is a return to the days of the "Know-Nothing" party—nativists who prided themselves on whipping up fears that the country was being overrun by German and Irish Catholic immigrants. Such prejudice, in its current sick form, presumes Obama to be a foreign Muslim sleeper-agent bent on the destruction of the United States.

And if we took that crazy premise to its illogical conclusion, what's Obama waiting for? He's had more than two years to disband the standing army, dismantle America's nuclear arsenal, and order the Coast Guard to stand down.

Surely a man able to fake his birth, and wily enough to bide his time for years as a community organizer in Chicago before running for president, would be cunning enough to topple the government by now. Why haven't the mujahideen arrived already?

For the record, the long-form birth certificate proves what rational people already accepted: Barack Hussein Obama is a U.S. citizen. He was born at 7:24pm on Aug. 4, 1961, at Kapiolani Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. His father was a citizen of Kenya; his 18-year-old mother was a U.S. citizen.

Hawaii, by the way, gained statehood Aug. 21, 1959.

The truly sad part of this episode is that Obama is trying to reason with the unreasonable. The people who despise him won't be satisfied with a true copy of his long-form birth certificate. Perhaps they will now demand carbon-dating be conducted on the original.

Presidential spokesman Jay Carney noted that the issue was being raised increasingly in the mainstream media, probably due to Trump's calculated histrionics.

"This is not a discussion happening just among conspiracy

See BIRTHERS on Page 11



### Obama's Osama been laid then

By JAIME VERGARA  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The breaking wire story is that the White House announced the death of Osama bin Laden and his body is in the possession of U.S. armed personnel. Demise occurred April 24 from a U.S. military operation.

Osama bin Mohammed bin Awad bin Laden belongs to the billionaire Saudi bin Laden family, disowned by his family when he turned al-Qaida against U.S. forces. Of the former "base" (*al-Qaida*) operation against Soviet forces in Afghanistan continuing to wage war, my Muslim colleagues would argue that it is more to promote the Islamic method of jihad to attain religious and political goals, but that would be a matter of splitting hair.

Literature on the three—Osama, Obama and al-Qaida—in the last two years were focused on Osama scheming to wreak more havoc on the West, which he did, and Obama vowing to get him, which evidently he now has, and al-Qaida continuing the jihadist method to counter anti-Muslim acts anywhere in the world, which, unfortunately, it continues to do so, with the latest al-Qaida threat to ignite a nuclear explosion in Germany, as if Fukushima Daiichi is not heavy enough on our contemporary consciousness.

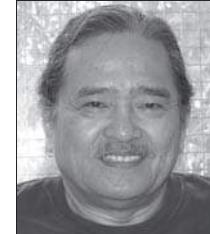
The European notion of revenge, deeply embedded in the Western psyche, will not find shortage of adherents *in jubilate* today. While we understand the impulse, we know that two negatives do not make a positive. Some will find therapy in the notion that the main perpetrator of the ghastly attack on NYC's twin towers on 9/11 is finally dead and will henceforth be tortuously laid to rest. But that precisely is where the flame is going to be fanned for there is nothing more conflagrant than the fires of and from a martyr. Call Osama what we will but the undeniable fact is that he is a hero in the tender minds of many young people around the world.

Obama's popularity rating will rise with this development. His comedic take on the Donald and other birthers during the annual Correspondents' Dinner after the release of his birth certificate tickled our bones to no end. But this announcement goes beyond *hors d'oeuvres* and icing in the cake, on the way to the president's re-election campaign. It has to be one of the major acts for it shows an executive officer working behind the scene to attain a clear goal, and producing on a vow.

Then there is al-Qaida, a word now synonymous in many minds to religious bigotry and militant fundamentalism. Not too long ago we participated in creating this "base" of fighters that took on the mighty armed forces of the Soviet Union who are still wondering how they got into their Vietnam-like quagmire. The al-Qaida folk were called freedom fighters (mujahideen) before they were terrorists. Of course, that has all changed and, depending on whose lens one is looking at on the picture, al-Qaida is either a disciplined but

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



sinister conspiracy to inflict pain on a heretofore benevolent West, or a ragtag movement of rebels out to inflict upon the West a dose of its own medicine.

One blogger on today's announcement offered a suggestion that, with the demise of Osama, we can now focus on the real terrorist, and wherever one sits anywhere in the world these days, they seem to be prevalent in the area of real estate development, the phantom wealth creating systems of our stock markets, and the rest of the financial markets that spawned the Ponzi pyramid schemes and the lucrative world of derivatives.

The IMF has just projected that China will catch the U.S.' economy in five years, a rather optimistic projection, but also an acknowledgement that U.S. employment has become heavily weighted on the phantom wealth creating financial markets rather than the substantial goods and services market where the multiplier effect is so much higher. We have turned our economists into scheming commercial wealth manipulators on the back of the workers of the world, and prostituted our practice of law and our legislatures to serving their rapacious intents. And we are surprised to see many in the world support the al-Qaida cause!

We have operated out of the knee-jerk corner of fear since 9/11, and we continue to rattle sabers in Vietnam and the Philippines (and based in the Marianas) on the South China Sea's rich oilfields, instead of calling out all the claimants around the table to discern and discuss what might be of common interest. For if China does experience economic growth of an average of 9 percent annually in the next five years, it will require a minimum increase of 12 percent energy consumption, and it has no resource to meet that requirement, so it will have to fend for itself while the old seven sisters (now, superfourgroup) continue to defend their exploit of the resources of the Middle East and elsewhere.

Osama notwithstanding, the Middle East is already aflame. There really lies the real heat from today's White House announcement. The al-Qaida don't bother me as much as Syria, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Oman, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia does. Obama obviously has weightier matters on his shoulders. Alas, also on ours!

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**Letters to the Editor****An array of options to choose from**

Dear Paul Beebe: I can see from your address in Spokane, that you are a runaway, Paul. Too bad, as the CNMI is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. Obviously you don't agree or you would be living here instead of there in the cold, dry part of the Pacific Northwest.

People make the difference in a place, Paul. Some make a difference by griping and complaining...but that doesn't happen often. More often than not a positive difference is made by individual people rolling up their sleeves and working at improving a place.

One way to be sure a place in improving instead of going the wrong way is to periodically reevaluate where you are, where you've been, what caused that line of evolution and where you are headed if you keep on in the same way you've been going. A major part of this process involves being honest with yourself about whether there are better ways to do things. Companies do this. Successful individual people do this. Free countries do this if they are interested in anything but the same old status quo.

**Forced away**

In reply to your remarks Mr. Torres, I'd just like to say it would be nice to meet your ghost writer in person one of these days.

First of all, you call me a runaway. More like a forced-away, like everyone else, by what I saw as the writing on the wall, so to speak, of what was coming due to what you and your cronies were doing to the economy of the CNMI. I knew that to stay in the CNMI with three young children, I wouldn't be doing them any favors in terms of education, health, and future employment.

But, know this: I would love nothing more than to be back in Saipan. The economic situation created by the government of the CNMI makes that impossible. Maybe one day, when the CNMI actually starts electing its brightest and best, like Ed Propst, Tina Sablan, Robert Hunter, and Joe Ayuyu, that is the day when I return home. You, Uncle Ben, and your cronies keep harping about getting more money from the federal government and then on the other hand saying you aren't satisfied with the relationship as it has proceeded since the day the CNMI people voted to join the USA.

What have you done with the monies already received? Not much, obviously. Name one time Uncle Sam spoke and you listened. Did you follow Uncle Sam's advice to reduce the numbers of contract workers in the CNMI? No, you didn't. Now Homeland Security has a permanent office on the islands. Under former governor De Leon Guerrero, Uncle Sam asked for an accounting of the money sent to the CNMI. You guys told the feds to take a hike and refused. It goes on and on.

The CNMI's political machine has acted like an unsupervised teenager with a no-limit credit card since its inception. Did you follow *your* part of the Covenant and agreement with the U.S. government? I think maybe that you haven't even read it. Let's take a look at the CNMI government: You've lost control of immigration; lost control of the Department of Labor (with over \$6 million [maybe more?] in unpaid Labor claims); the Retirement Fund will be broke in a few short years, making even more of the CNMI's people destitute; CUC is in disarray and it seems will never be fixed; CHC on all the islands is a mess; NMC has ceased to function as a higher learning entity; and you've raided every other agency in the CNMI for funds to keep paying yourselves your radically high salaries. PSS is the only thing doing well, but that is only because you can't touch the federal money going into their budget.

It seems that all you politicians on Capital Hill can do is give yourselves raises and increases to your discretionary funds, while never submitting any real bills that make any sense or that might actually *work*. Sadly, all these games are being played out while the local people are slowly being squeezed for every dollar they have

**BIRTHERS**

*From Page 10*

theorists," Carney said. "It is happening . . . on all of the networks, and it is something that every major political figure of both parties—instead of talking about real issues—is being asked about this. So the president decided to release this."

Obama has made a startling concession to the forces of fear and ignorance. It should not have been necessary. But the move was

I have proposed that the CNMI do this kind of self-evaluation by bringing together the talents, knowledge, and ideas of a group of people in a 2<sup>nd</sup> Political Status Commission. Who knows what ideas and recommendations will come out of this process? They might decide that we are already on the right course (something that would obviously make you happy). They might decide to recommend that some other political relationship be explored. They might find a better way to relate and communicate with our current political partner, the United States. They might find that some other form or relationship or even no relationship with the U.S. would be in the best self-interest of the people of the Northern Marianas. Notice that it is the citizens of the Northern Marianas that we are interested in. Not what is best for you in Spokane or your Aunt Bessie in Denver. Free association, full independence, a regional coalition, total realignment, more of the same, renegotiated Covenant, who knows? There are many options for them to look at.

By ruthlessly evaluating, getting input from the citizenry, ultimately

and are losing their homes, businesses and fleeing the islands to the mainland for job opportunities, while you and your political buddies sit on your hands without a clue as to what to do next in order to bring the economy of the CNMI back to life.

The government of the CNMI—that means you and your buddies on Capital Hill—knew well in advance that when the World Trade Organization eliminated tariffs on clothing, it was a death knell for the CNMI economy. Did you start planning in advance for that day when the garment factories would leave the CNMI for good? No, you didn't. Did you look for ways to increase the numbers of tourists visiting the CNMI? No, you cut MVA's budget and then decided to further tax the very same tourists that you prayed would save the economy of the CNMI. Have any of you on Capital Hill done anything to save or help the CNMI's economy? No, again, all you have done is increase your take from the CNMI's coffers.

You mention how re-evaluating relationships is a good thing. Maybe we should re-evaluate our relationship with you. Or better yet, how about re-evaluating yourself first and then all your fellow politicians? Are you actually doing the CNMI any good by staying in office? As the saying goes, "What have you done for me lately?" What have you actually done for the CNMI lately? What have you done while in office that has actually worked and improved the economy or lives of people in the CNMI? Are you honestly earning your paycheck?

There is a brain drain going on in the CNMI, and slowly, but surely, all the brightest and best of the CNMI will leave because even though it breaks their hearts to leave the islands they call home, their government is not loving them back by doing *all* it can to make the CNMI a place where they can live and prosper. It is heartbreaking to read the news from Saipan everyday and chat with friends about the latest irresponsible act(s) by a government that is slowly losing its mind. I feel sad for all my friends still on the islands having to endure the pain of seeing their home, one of the most beautiful places on earth, being destroyed by those who are supposed to be building and saving it. The people of the CNMI deserve better!

As for the help the CNMI has received in the past few years. I believe the Covenant became effective in November 1986; that's more than 25 years of money and advice given to the CNMI to build roads and infrastructure and a working power plant. Those monies were wasted on cars, junkets, nepotistic hirings, and inflated salaries of government employees. And yes, your well-being and happiness *does*, in most cases, depend on the color of your passport. Why else would most people in the world do just about *anything* to get one the same color as yours?

within his control, and the lunacy would only have grown louder had he not taken this step.

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**Satisfied, birthers? Thought not**

Now that President Barack Obama has taken the unusual step of releasing a rarely used long form of a birth certificate, the groundless question of the president's citizenship is behind us. Or should be.

Of course, a controversy fed on rumor and speculation isn't easily

mately making recommendations, and having the citizens who actually live here vote on the best of those ideas, we may find a way to make these wonderful islands an even better place to live.

Feel free to come and live here and actually do something to make our home better, Paul. Or you can stay there in Spokane and miss out on paradise. Either way, our happiness and well-being are not dependant on the color of our passports. It is dependent on whether we know who we are and where we are going. It is dependant upon the interest and hard work of those people willing to try to improve our lot in life. As for me, I'll be staying right here working and building as best I can. By the way, Paul, all islands north of Saipan are my islands too! So, I won't be running away to Pagan, or anywhere else, thanks.

The people of the Northern Marianas appreciate the help they have received over the past few years from the USA. Our ancestors came here thousands of years ago. We have seen many countries and many leaders come and go. We are still here and will still be here no matter who we are allied with politically or how. You can bet on that. But you're not a betting man, are you, Paul?

**Stanley McGinnis Torres**

17<sup>th</sup> CNMI Legislature  
Capital Hill, Saipan

Changing your political relationship or status doesn't change the fact that you and your political buddies have created the mess that is now the CNMI. Uncle Sam is not to blame, the haole/statesiders aren't to blame, the contract workers aren't to blame either. Who has been in charge these last 20 years? It all comes back to you and your political gangs. You guys don't even have the common sense to be ashamed for what you have created. It's like crashing your car into a tree and you start yelling at the tree, blaming it for your accident. Who was driving the car? YOU! Do you feel you have earned your salary all these years, Mr. Torres?

You mention rolling up your sleeves and working to improve a place, being honest with yourself, getting input from the citizenry. I hope you didn't mean yourself. You and most of your buddies haven't done any of those things while in office. You do what you want and ignore the voices of the people. What do you mean a different political relationship might be recommended? Do you have some other country in mind for the CNMI to align itself with? Is it one that has no problem giving bribes? Or is it one that has promised to make you king of the Marianas? Inquiring minds want to know! Let us know, so we know what language to order from Rosetta Stone when you become king!

Like it or not, I am one of the voices of the people. As one of the people, I have the right to call you to task for your failings; you are an elected official after all. If you feel that is griping, that is your opinion. I call it holding you accountable for the political and economical atrocities you have committed against the people of the CNMI. Try giving me and the people of the CNMI a reason *not* to gripe about your political behavior, Mr. Torres, by actually *doing* something for the people of the CNMI and helping its dying economy.

Frankly though, Mr. Torres, I think you and your buddies have been a very bad investment for the CNMI. The people of the CNMI should ask you and all your inept buddies for their money back. Like I said, sadly, Third World countries are run better than the CNMI. It's time to start acting like a man and stop blaming Uncle Sam and everyone else for the CNMI's problems and looking elsewhere for a magical cure to the CNMI's ills and acknowledge and accept your responsibility for your part in creating this mess and start working to find solutions—that is your job after all.

P.S. Next time try writing your own letter. You might actually get some respect for doing that.

**Paul H. Beebe**  
Spokane, WA

quelled. Within hours of Obama releasing the longer form certificate of live birth, the Internet swirled with feeble theories of fakery.

But officialdom insists it's real, and there's no rational reason to doubt.

Beyond that, as Obama put it Wednesday: "We do not have time for this kind of silliness. We're not going to be able to solve our problems if we get distracted by sideshows and carnival barkers."

Good point. This sideshow is over. Now back to work.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 81
Palau Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Yap Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Chuuk Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Pohnpei Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Kosrae Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Majuro Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78

### Around The Globe

Auckland Showers	▲ 68 ▼ 62
Beijing Mostly Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 56
Hong Kong Thundershowers	▲ 79 ▼ 75
Honolulu Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 73
London Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 42
Los Angeles Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 58
Manila Thundershowers	▲ 93 ▼ 82
Melbourne Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 51
Miami Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
New York Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 53
Osaka Mostly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 57
Paris Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 42
Pusan Mostly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 56
Rome Rain	▲ 73 ▼ 55
Salem Rain	▲ 58 ▼ 42
San Francisco Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 51
Seoul Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 49
Tokyo Mostly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 59
Washington, DC Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 61

### Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:53 AM	6:35 PM	Today	5:29 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM	Wednesday	6:13 AM	7:26 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM	Thursday	7:00 AM	8:19 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM	Friday	7:51 AM	9:12 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM	Saturday	8:44 AM	10:04 PM

### GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

■ **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ **BUSINESS**  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ **SAMUT SARI**  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ **TRAVELOGUE**  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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**FLY GUAM FLIGHT SCHEDULE**

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 21, 2011							
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM</b>			<b>GUAM-SAIPAN</b>				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>			<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>				
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily, Departs at 6:05am effective June 1	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily, Arrives at 12:45am effective June 1, 2011
<b>SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)</b>			<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b>				
02119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	02120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>			<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>				
02608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	02607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>			<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>				
02606	2:10am	6:00am	1	02603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
02606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	02120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
02604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	02605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
02119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	02605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>			<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b>			<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b>				
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>							

# Business

# Workers demand better jobs, pay on May Day

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Thousands of workers and immigrant laborers took to the streets on Sunday to celebrate May Day, demanding rights for those “who toil in the sun” while others pocket the profits.

The message in Manhattan—delivered with bullhorns and drums—was echoed by millions of workers around the world, from Havana to Berlin and Istanbul.

The burning issues were the same: more jobs, better working conditions, higher wages and decent health care.

May 1 is a traditional date for pro-labor demonstrations. Immigration advocates in the United States latched onto the celebrations in 2006.

At dozens of rallies around the country, they vowed to fight on behalf of undocumented immigrants who are being rounded up and deported.

“STOP the deportations!” read a placard in Manhattan’s Union Square, where about 1,000 people gathered at noon before marching down Broadway for a rally in downtown Foley Square.

The square is feet from a federal building that houses the New York office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, which is in charge of removal operations involving illegal immigrants.

Across U.S. farmlands, “they toil in the sun, they toil so hard—and yet, others are making the most money,” said Jocelyn Gill-Campbell, an organizer for Domestic Workers United.

She stood atop a pickup truck to address the Union Square crowd, which chanted in Spanish: “Primero de Mayo, dio

proletario,” meaning, “May 1, workers’ day.”

Immigrant advocates were joined at the Manhattan rallies by members of U.S. labor unions whose voices were heard loudest in Wisconsin, Ohio and other states where in recent months they protested efforts to curtail the right to collective bargaining.

Underlying Sunday’s gatherings was seething anger over the rising cost of living and growing disparities between rich and poor—exacerbated by the global economic squeeze.

In Turkey, some 200,000 protesters flooded a central plaza in Istanbul, making it the largest May Day rally there since 1977, when at least 34 people died and more than 100 were injured after shooting triggered a stampede. Turkish unions weren’t allowed back until last year.

Across Germany, some 423,000 people took to the streets to demand fair wages, better working conditions and sufficient social security, the country’s unions’ umbrella group, DGB, said.

Union group head Michael Sommer said the turnout—similar to last year’s—was a clear message to the government that it should give up its refusal to introduce a national minimum wage.

“Fair wages, good jobs and social security are the minimum standard in this country that workers expect, need and have to fight for time and again,” Sommer said at a protest in the central German town Kassel.

In Berlin, several rallies were scattered across the capital, with police saying 10,000 people had taken to the streets.

Some 8,000 gathered late in

the afternoon at a rally called for by leftist groups, with police out in force as past demonstrations had turned violent. Marchers carried banners saying, “This is the least: fair salaries, fair jobs.”

Across the city, 6,000 security forces were deployed Sunday to monitor the protests, police said.

In Austria, more than 100,000 people peacefully took to the streets of Vienna, protest organiz-

ers said. Social Democratic Chancellor Werner Faymann promised social policies and warned against leaving too much room to financial speculation, Austrian news agency APA reported.

In Cuba, hundreds of thousands of people marched through Havana and other cities to mark May Day in a demonstration touted as a vast show of support for economic changes

recently approved by the Communist Party.

In South Korea, police said 50,000 people rallied in Seoul for better labor protections. The people also urged the government to contain rising inflation, a growing concern across much of Asia, where food and oil prices have been spiking and threatening to push millions of people into poverty.

Thousands of workers also marched in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Several thousand people turned out for May Day demonstrations in Paris, including supporters of the far-right National Front party whose new president, Marine Le Pen, stressed her party’s long-standing anti-immigrant stance.

In the Philippines, about 3,000 workers demanding higher wages held a protest in a Manila square that included setting alight the effigy of Philippine President Benigno Aquino III grinning in a luxury car. Aquino was criticized this year for buying a Porsche in a country where a third of the people live on a dollar a day.

In Taiwan, about 2,000 people rallied in Taipei to protest the widening income gap and to demand their government create better work conditions. About 3,000 people in Hong Kong took part in a Sunday morning protest while another 5,000 were expected at an afternoon rally, local media reports said.

In Spain, where unemployment has reached a eurozone high of 21.3 percent, several thousand people gathered in the eastern port city Valencia and protested the government’s failure to create new jobs.



AP  
Israel Galindo plays a trumpet during a rally for jobs and immigration rights in New York, Sunday, May 1, 2011. May 1 is a traditional date for pro-labor demonstrations. Immigration advocates latched onto the tradition in 2006.

## Japan, SKorean markets rise amid Asian holidays

**TOKYO** (AP)—Markets in Japan and South Korea rose Monday amid holiday-thinned trading in Asia after U.S. stocks gained amid positive earnings to round out their best month since the end of last year.

Japan’s Nikkei 225 rose 1 percent to 9,945.24. Asia’s

largest market will be closed Tuesday through Thursday amid Japan’s annual Golden Week holiday.

South Korea’s benchmark Kospi index, meanwhile, advanced 1.4 percent to 2,223.52.

Trading in Asia was thin amid a slew of holidays this week in the region. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index and mainland China’s Shanghai Composite Index were closed for holidays as were stock markets in Taiwan and Malaysia.

Australia’s S&P/ASX 200, meanwhile, fell 0.5 percent to 4,801.20, while markets in New Zealand also declined.

The Dow Jones industrial

average rose Friday on positive earnings news after construction equipment manufacturer Caterpillar reported strong first-quarter profit.

The Dow rose 47.23 points Friday, or 0.4 percent, to close at 12,810.54, rounding out April 4 percent higher, its best month since December.

Caterpillar, world’s largest maker of mining and construction equipment, rose 2.5 percent after its earnings increased more than fivefold. The company also raised its sales and profit forecast for the year.

Japan’s Komatsu Ltd., the world’s No. 2 equipment maker, rose 1.8 percent.

Broader indices also gained.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index rose 3.13 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at 1,363.61. The index gained 2.8 percent in April. The Nasdaq composite added 1.01 point to 2,873.54. It rose 3.3 percent for the month.

Benchmark crude for June delivery was down 72 cents to \$113.21 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract settled at \$113.93 per barrel on the Nymex on Friday.

The euro was higher at \$1.4780 from \$1.4839 late Friday in New York. The dollar strengthened to 81.59 yen from 81.10 yen.

## Oil falls below \$113 after bin Laden killed

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Oil prices eased off two-and-a-half-year highs to below \$113 a barrel Monday after President Barack Obama announced that al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden had been killed.

Benchmark crude for June delivery was down \$1.23 at \$112.70 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract rose \$1.07 to settle at \$113.93 on Friday and reached \$114.18 during the session, the highest since September 2008.

In London, Brent crude for June delivery was down 98 cents to \$124.91 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Obama said bin Laden was killed Sunday by American special forces in Pakistan. Traders said the death of bin Laden could weaken al-Qaida’s ability to carry out attacks and destabilize the oil-rich Middle East.

However, al-Qaida operatives could also seek revenge for their leader’s death, and political uprisings this year throughout the Middle East and North Africa that have threatened to disrupt

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Group of 6 senators hones plan to cut US deficits

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A bipartisan group of six senators is closing in on what could represent the best chance for tackling a deficit crisis that has forced the government to borrow more than 40 cents of every dollar it spends. Their plan, still a work in progress, would reduce borrowing by up to \$4 trillion over the next decade by putting the two parties’ sacred cows on the chopping block. Republicans would have to agree to higher taxes while Democrats would have to accept cuts in popular benefit programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and maybe even Social Security. There is urgency to their work.

#### Customers stay despite high-profile data breaches

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Week after week, thieves break into corporate computer systems to steal customer lists, email addresses and credit card numbers. Large data breaches get overshadowed by even larger ones. Yet people are turning over personal information to online retailers, social networks and other services in growing numbers. The point at which people lose trust in the websites they deal with appears

further away than ever before, if it exists at all, as shopping, socializing and gaming online becomes deeply embedded in modern life. People have come to accept that sharing information is the price of a meaningful, connected life online—even if they don’t like it.

#### Sony execs apologize for network security breach

**TOKYO** (AP)—Sony executives bowed in apology Sunday for a security breach in the company’s PlayStation Network that caused the loss of personal data of some 77 million accounts on the online service. “We deeply apologize for the inconvenience we have caused,” said Kazuo Hirai, chief of Sony Corp.’s PlayStation video game unit, who was among the three executives who bowed for several seconds at the company’s Tokyo headquarters in the traditional style of a Japanese apology. Hirai said parts of the service would be back this week and that the company would beef up security measures. But he and other executives acknowledged that not enough had been done in security precautions, and promised that the company’s network services were under a basic review to prevent a recurrence.

crude supplies were not related to al-Qaida.

Trading volume was light in Asia as markets in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore will close for international Labor Day. Markets in Japan were open Monday but will be closed the next three days for Golden Week holiday.

In other Nymex trading in May contracts, heating oil fell 2.5 cents to \$3.25 a gallon and gasoline dropped 1.8 cents to \$3.38 a gallon. Natural gas June futures were down 1.5 cents at \$4.69 per 1,000 cubic feet.

# Nation

## Crowds gather in NYC, DC after bin Laden killed

NEW YORK (AP)—Hundreds of jubilant people streamed to the spot where the World Trade Center fell almost 10 years ago, waving American flags, snapping pictures and breaking into song early Monday to celebrate the death of Osama bin Laden with the boisterous enthusiasm of a Times Square New Year's Eve crowd.

Many waved American flags or took pictures. One man climbed a light pole and waved the American flag to cheers below while others broke into song with renditions of "God Bless America" and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

It was easily the happiest crowd ever at a site where more familiar scenes are bagpipes

playing "Amazing Grace" and solemn speeches memorializing the dead during annual anniversary ceremonies in the decade since the terrorist attacks.

Stephanie Zessos, who lives in the neighborhood and works for the fire department, said sadness also was mixed in with the celebration.

"I texted a friend of mine who's a firefighter who lost a brother on 9/11, and he said the pain will never go away," she said.

Guy Madsen, 49, of Clifton, N.J., drove to the city with his son when he heard of bin Laden's death.

"It's really a terrific day for not just America but for the world. To have this cancer pulled from us is the right

thing," Madsen said.

"This is Judgment Day and we're winning."

Farther uptown in Times Square, dozens stood together on the clear spring night and broke into applause when a New York Fire Department SUV drove by, flashed its lights and sounded its siren. A man held an American flag and others sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And in Washington, D.C., a large group gathered in front of the White House, chanting "USA! USA!" and waving American flags. The throng had filled the street in front and was spilling into Lafayette Park.

Will Ditto, 25, a legislative aide, said he was getting ready to go to bed Sunday night when

his mom called him with the news. He decided to leave his home on Capitol Hill and join the crowd. As he rode the subway to the White House, he told fellow passengers the news.

"It's huge," he said. "It's a great day to be an American."

George Washington University student Alex Washofsky,

20, and his roommate Dan Fallon, 20, joined the crowd.

"George Bush said, 'Bring him to justice, dead or alive,' and we did it," said Washofsky, a junior and a member of the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps.

The crowd began gathering before President Barack Obama addressed the nation at about

11:30 p.m. Sunday. By midnight, people had filled a street directly in front of the White House and the celebration was spilling over into Lafayette Park to the north.

Some people sprinted up on foot to join the crowd. Others arrived on bicycles, and some people brought dogs.

## Tornado victims seek comfort in Sunday services

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Macolee Muhammed accepted the prayer of a relief worker who stopped by what was left of her Birmingham home. It didn't matter that she was Muslim and he was a Southern Baptist.

"If you came here to help, the only person who sent you was God," she said.

The storms that roared across the South last week flattened churches and crushed the homes of pastors and parishioners in a ragged stretch from Mississippi to Virginia. At least 342 people were killed and thousands more hurt.

So on the first Sunday after the disaster, believers streamed into houses of worship to give thanks for being spared, to mourn the dead and to ponder impossible questions. Why did some survive without any explanation? Why did others die for no apparent reason?

Many people in this highly religious region saw God at work, even amid the devastation.

"God just put his big old arms around us," said Peggy Blevins, 59, of Rainsville, Ala. "I don't understand why he takes some people and leaves others. But I thank him just the same for protecting us."

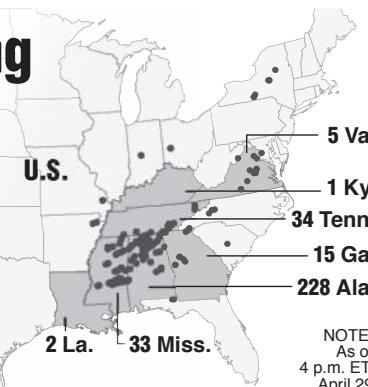
When the storm drew near, she and her family hid in a hallway of their house. She believes they survived only because

## Death toll rising

More than 130 tornadoes were reported on Wednesday and killed more than 300 people in seven states.

• April 27 tornadoes  
■ States with deaths, number

© 2011 MCT  
Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, AP  
Graphic: Melina Yingling



NOTE: As of 4 p.m. ET, April 29

troop meetings, neighborhood voting, bake sales, basketball games and Wednesday night prayer meetings.

Some churches were wiped out. Some of those left standing have become headquarters for rebuilding.

American Christian Academy, a private school in Tuscaloosa, hosted a service at a football stadium within walking distance of neighborhoods where several churches were wiped out. The

## ACROSS THE NATION

### NASA says no new launch attempt before next Sunday

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA's space shuttles are dragging their tails toward retirement. The high-profile voyage of Endeavour—the next-to-last space shuttle flight led by the husband of wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords—is off until at least next Sunday because of a technical problem. The latest culprit, believed to be a bad fuse box, illustrates just how complex these space machines are and why NASA's goodbye to the 30-year shuttle program may be a long one. Commander Mark Kelly and his five crewmates quickly headed back to Houston on Sunday morning, two days after their first launch attempt was foiled.

### Polygamous church dispute may head to Utah court

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—An internal tug-of-war over control of jailed polygamous sect leader Warren Jeffs' southern Utah-based church may force Utah courts to walk a constitutional tightrope that experts say could tread a little too close to separation of church and state. The presidency

of the 10,000-member Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has been in question since March 28, when church bishop William E. Jessop filed papers with the Utah Department of Commerce seeking to unseat Jeffs as president of the church corporation. Under state law, the move automatically put Jessop in power. That set into motion a flurry of filings from Jeffs' loyalists removing Jessop and claiming that some 4,000 church members have pledged their loyalty to their incarcerated leader.

### Officer, suspect dead after Phoenix shootout

PHOENIX (AP)—A police officer from the west Phoenix suburb of Buckeye was killed and a second officer critically wounded Sunday in an early morning shootout that also left a suspect dead. The off-duty officers were working a private security job at a nightclub when they got into an altercation that ended with a gun battle, Phoenix police spokesman Sgt. Tommy Thompson said. The wounded officer suffered multiple gunshot wounds. A second suspect also was wounded and was in critical condition at midday Sunday. Police were looking for a third suspect who fled the scene.



Crowds gather outside the White House in Washington late Sunday, May 1, 2011, to celebrate after President Barack Obama announced the death of Osama bin Laden.

## Court declines to block levee blast, farm flooding

CAIRO, Ill. (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court on Sunday refused to halt a plan by the Army Corps of Engineers to blast open a levee to relieve the rain-swollen Mississippi River even as the Illinois town at risk of flooding was cleared out.

As Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito issued his ruling, struggling Cairo near the confluence of Ohio and Mississippi rivers resembled a ghost town. Illinois National Guard troops went door to door with law enforcers to enforce the mayor's "mandatory" evacuation order the previous night.

About 20 to 30 families were allowed to stay—a courtesy extended only to adults—in the 2,800-resident town after signing waivers acknowledging that they understood the potential peril, National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Heath Clark said.

"If you're (possibly) losing everything and don't know where to go, you wouldn't want to leave, either," he told The Associated Press.

Alito did not comment in denying Missouri's request to

block the corps' plan. Alito handles emergency requests from Missouri and other states in the 8th Circuit in the Midwest.

Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, the corps officer in charge of deciding whether to breach the levee, ordered field crews to move barges to the Missouri side of the river and begin loading pipes in the levee with explosives in anticipation of blowing up a two-mile section just downriver from Cairo. He stressed that the decision to do so has not been made.

Walsh said it would take 20 hours to get the pipes filled,

during which time he will review conditions before deciding what to do. Destroying the levee would provide a relief valve to ease the menacing rivers and ultimately lower them, taking pressure off Cairo's floodwall and other levees farther south along the Mississippi.

But the plan possibly would inundate 130,000 acres of now-evacuated farmland in Missouri's agriculture-reliant Mississippi County, causing what

Missouri argues would crush that region's economy and environment by rendering that cropland useless under potentially feet of sand and silt.

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster, whose bid to derail the corps' plan in recent days included failed requests to a federal district judge and an appellate court, took the case to the Supreme Court, noting "it is the responsibility of this office to pursue every possible avenue of legal review." Koster's office did not immediately return a call seeking comment after the court's ruling.

Corps officials are monitoring water levels and haven't decided whether to go through with the blast to blunt the rise of the Ohio, which on Sunday afternoon had risen to 59.93 feet at Cairo—eclipsing the 1937 record there of 59.5 feet. The river was expected to crest Tuesday at 61.5 feet and stay there for days, raising the corps' concerns about the lingering strain water that high could put on levees. Cairo's floodwall can handle 64 feet.

# Asia

## Catholics around the world celebrate John Paul II

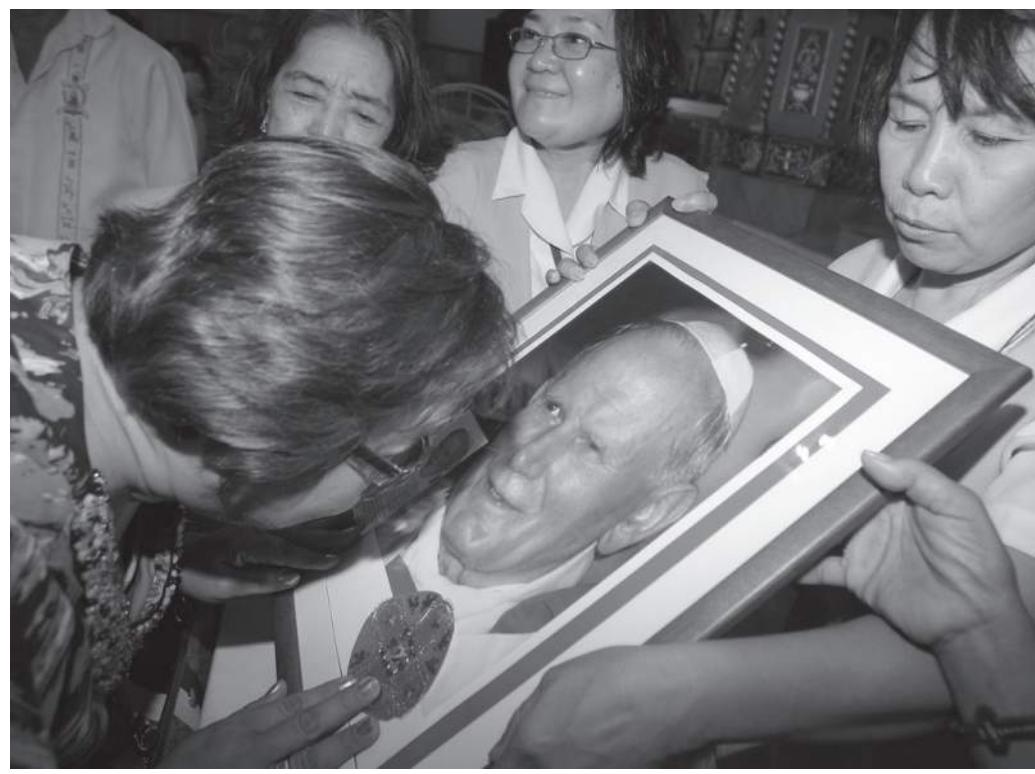
**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Catholics worldwide celebrated the beatification of the late Pope John Paul II on Sunday, with the faithful jamming churches to pray, cherishing his mementoes and witnessing on TV screens the Vatican ceremony that brought him one step closer to possible sainthood.

From Mexico to Australia, bells pealed in churches and cathedrals and people erupted in applause and tears to celebrate after Pope Benedict XVI bestowed one of the Catholic Church's greatest honors to Polish-born Karol Wojtyla, who visited 129 countries in his 27-year papacy to become the most-traveled pope ever.

In the Philippines, where many adore the John Paul II with rock-star intensity, people flocked to see mementoes: a piece of his cassock believed to have healing powers and a set of plate, spoon and fork—still unwashed after he used them 16 years ago during a visit to the country.

The popular pontiff has a wide following in the Philippines, Asia's largest predominantly Roman Catholic nation where authorities foiled a terrorist plot to assassinate him during a visit in 1995. Nearly 10,000 babies were named after him after his visits as a pope, according to a news report.

Although John Paul's beatifica-



A Filipino woman prays in front of a picture of the late Pope John Paul II framed with a cloth taken from his cassock which he wore shortly before he passed away in 2005 as devotees line up to get a glimpse at a church in Manila, Philippines, Sunday May 1, 2011.

tion has been criticized elsewhere by some as happening too fast and under a cloud over the clerical sex abuse scandal, it's being celebrated by many Filipinos as rare good news at a time of depressing man-made and natural disasters in their impoverished homeland and beyond.

"Why not?" asked John Paul Bustillo, a 16-year-old medical

student named by his mother after the pontiff and turned out Sunday along with more than 3,000 for a six-mile (10-kilometer) race followed by a Mass near Manila Bay. "He was a model and an inspiration who united the world with his extraordinary charisma."

A popular church in Manila's downtown Quiapo district is displaying a small piece of a cassock

worn by the late pope and given by a Vatican official to a Filipino priest. Thousands have lined up to touch or kiss the scant piece. Another such piece of clothing, also from the Vatican, has reportedly cured several patients at a state-run Manila hospital, said Monsignor Jose Clemente Ignacio, who heads the Quiapo church.

A Chinese restaurant in the cap-

ital's suburban Quezon City has displayed a set of plates, spoon, fork, water goblet and knives—still unwashed after the pope used them in a 1995 dinner of grilled fish and fried shrimp that the restaurant's staff catered.

"He was the most important VIP I have ever served in my life," Leo Matias told The Associated Press, adding that the pope allowed him and seven other waiters to kiss his ring.

In John Paul's native Poland, tens of thousands of people gathered in rain in a major sanctuary in Krakow and in Wadowice, where the pontiff was born in 1920. Prime Minister Donald Tusk and his wife Malgorzata watched the ceremony together with Wadowice residents.

Hundreds of Australians gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney to celebrate the beatification, with special prayer services being held inside and a carnival atmosphere outside in the grounds.

Live coverage of the ceremonies in Rome was being broadcast on a giant screen in the cathedral's forecourt, with food stalls selling treats and music groups performing.

Cardinal George Pell said he had no doubt that John Paul II would be canonized—officially declared a saint—but noted it was a long process.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### China says beefing up patrols over maritime claims

**BEIJING** (AP)—China's ocean monitoring agency says it is adding ships and personnel to beef up enforcement of the country's vast maritime claims. China Marine Surveillance says it will add 1,000 officers this year to raise staffing to 10,000 and will purchase 36 new ships over the next five years. The official China Daily reported Monday that the agency presently has 300 vessels of all types, along with 10 aircraft. The paper said the increased capacity is needed to deal with a rising number of disputes involving China and other countries that share overlapping claims to waters and island groups in the South China and East China seas.

#### Arson suspected in China hotel fire that killed 10

**BEIJING** (AP)—Chinese police say they suspect arson was the cause of a fire at a north-eastern hotel that killed 10 people. Investigators quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency say the early-Sunday blaze at a hotel in the city of Tonghua started in a ground floor stairwell and sent noxious smoke pouring onto the upper floors. A karaoke bar and a restaurant operate on the first and second floors of the seven story building, with the hotel occupying the upper floors. Xinhua's Monday report gave no further details and police and government officials reached by phone said they had no further information.

#### Anti-government protests resume in Maldives

**MALE, Maldives** (AP)—Anti-government demonstrators defied a heavy police presence Sunday to protest for a second straight night, demanding the ouster of Maldives President Mohamad Nasheed. More than 3,000 people gathered at a main intersection in the capital, Male, to protest government inaction in controlling rising prices, alleged mismanagement and wasteful spending. The protests resumed hours after police used tear gas and batons to break up a demonstration in Male that began Saturday night and continued into early Sunday. Organizers say about 5,000 people took part in the earlier protest. Police had set up barricades and were ready with anti-riot gear.

## World cheers bin Laden's death as victory

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—The death of Osama bin Laden was celebrated around the world as a victory for justice, but many people cautioned that it would not end terrorist attacks or ease suffering of those who lost loved ones in bombings by al-Qaida-linked militants.

Spontaneous, celebratory rallies broke out in New York City at ground zero, where the twin towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001 and outside the White House where President Barack Obama made the historic announcement. At the same time, U.S. embassies across the globe were placed on

high alert and Americans warned about possible reprisals for the death of the man who masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Al-Qaida will continue," said Haroun Mir, an Afghan analyst in Kabul, who added that the death in a raid on a mansion in Pakistan vindicated longtime allegations by Afghanistan that bin Laden enjoyed "safe havens" in the neighboring country.

Chairul Akbar, secretary general of the anti-terrorism agency in Indonesia—the world's most populous Muslim nation and a frequent al-Qaida target—expressed jubilation about the

news. Attacks blamed on al-Qaida-linked militants have killed more than 260 people in Indonesia, many of them foreign tourists.

"We welcome the death of one of the world's most dangerous men and highly appreciate the United States' help in crushing this global enemy," he said. "He couldn't be allowed to live. He helped spread a dangerous ideology all over the world, including in Indonesia."

Said Agil Siradj, chairman of Indonesia's largest Muslim organization, Nahdlatul Ulama, said bin Laden's death will help

restore the image of Islam as one of people, not violence and radicalism.

"But I don't think terrorism will stop with his death," Saradj said. "As long as there is oppression and injustice against Muslims in Palestine it will continue."

Brian Deegan, a lawyer from the southern Australian city of Adelaide who lost his 21-year-old son Josh in al-Qaida-linked bombings on Indonesia's resort island of Bali in 2002, said he felt a "cold shiver" when learning about bin Laden's death on a car radio.

"I don't gain any satisfaction in his death—nothing will bring Josh back to me," Deegan said. "But as for my remaining three children, I gain a sense of some security—I feel better for the future for my remaining three children."

Deegan thinks most Australians will share his sense of relief, he said.

"It does show that persons who exact horrific crimes on others on such a mass scale, even in this enormous world of ours, they can run and they can hide, but eventually they will be found," Deegan said.

## Taliban use child bomber at start of offensive

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—On the first day of its promised spring offensive, the Taliban used a 12-year-old boy as a suicide bomber in an attack Sunday that killed four civilians, President Hamid Karzai said, calling the child's recruitment inhumane and un-Islamic.

It was one of several attacks across the country that killed seven people, government officials said.

The insurgent movement announced in a statement Saturday that it would step up operations against military bases, convoys and Afghan officials, including

members of the peace council working to reconcile with top insurgent leaders. The offensive begins each year after a winter lull in fighting.

"The use of children and youths who don't know the difference between right and wrong in terrorist attacks is inhumane and against all Islamic principles," the president said.

The suicide bomber detonated a vest packed with explosives inside a bazaar in the Barmal district of Paktika province, 160 miles (260 kilometers) southeast of Kabul, on the border with Pakistan. The

blast killed four civilians and wounded 12, said Mokhlis Afghan, a spokesman for the provincial governor's office.

Among the dead—and the likely target of the attack—was Sher Nawaz, head of a new district council in the Shaeen area of Paktika province, Afghan said.

In the Taliban's announcement on its offensive, it suggested it would try to limit civilian casualties in its operations.

"Strict attention must be paid to the protection and safety of civilians during spring operations by working out a meticulous military plan," it said.

A United Nations report released earlier this year presented evidence that the Taliban was responsible for the majority of civilian deaths in Afghanistan in 2010, and Afghan and NATO officials have repeatedly accused the Taliban of breaking its own rules of engagement.

According to documents from the Joint Intelligence Group at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Taliban systematically recruits and trains juveniles to be suicide bombers.

The documents, recently released under a Freedom of In-

formation Act request, include statements from detainees and suggest that child recruitment is organized and extensive among Islamic militant groups.

U.S. military intelligence officers said juveniles are often recruited at mosques and Islamic schools and that they are in turn encouraged to recruit their friends. Some are lured by extremist literature or videos.

The documents suggest that extremists find youths easier to recruit than adults and that they become more pliant disciples of militant Islam.

"Taliban used hard-line interpretation of the Quran as a recruitment tool," according to the confidential documents.

# World

## Libyans burn UK, Italy missions after NATO strike

**TRIPOLI, Libya** (AP)—Angry mobs attacked Western embassies and U.N. offices in Tripoli Sunday after NATO bombed Moammar Gadhafi's family compound in an attack officials said killed the leader's second-youngest son and three grandchildren. Russia accused the Western alliance of exceeding its U.N. mandate of protecting Libyan civilians with the strike.

The vandalized embassies were empty and nobody was reported injured, but the attacks heightened tensions between the Libyan regime and Western powers, prompting the United Nations to pull its international staff out of the capital.

The bombing did not slow the attacks of Gadhafi's forces on rebel strongholds in the western part of Libya that has remained largely under the control of the regime. The rebel port of Misrata, which has been besieged by Gadhafi's troops for two months, came under heavy shelling Sunday and at least 12 people were killed, a medic said.

Gadhafi has repeatedly called for a cease-fire, most recently on Saturday, but has not halted his assault on Misrata, a city of 300,000 where hundreds have been killed since the rebellion against Libya's ruler erupted in mid-February.

The rebels, who control most of eastern Libya, have been unable to gain an advantage on the battlefield despite weeks of NATO airstrikes. Alliance officials and allied leaders emphatically denied they were hunting Gadhafi to break the stalemate between the better trained government forces and the lightly armed rebels.

Canadian Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard, who commands NATO's operation in Libya, said that "we do not target individuals." However, the leaders of the U.S., Britain and France have said Gadhafi must go, prompting warnings by U.N.

Security Council members Russia, China and Brazil against NATO attempts to change the regime.

In some of its strongest language, the Russian Foreign Ministry on Sunday accused NATO of a "disproportionate use of force" and cast doubt on NATO's assertion that it is not targeting Gadhafi or members of his family. The ministry called for "an immediate ceasefire and the beginning of a political settlement process without preconditions."

NATO warplanes have shifted their focus in the past two weeks from support for rebels on the front lines to attacking the regime's communications centers. Saturday's strike re-

duced most of the Gadhafi family compound, which takes up an entire block in the residential Garghour neighborhood, to rubble.

Officials said it killed 29-year-old Seif al-Arab Gadhafi, who had survived a 1986 U.S. airstrike on his father's Bab al-Aziziya residential compound. The 1986 strike, which killed Gadhafi's adopted daughter, was retaliation for the bombing attack on a German disco in which two U.S. servicemen were killed. The U.S. at the time blamed Libya for the disco blast.

Hidden from view by blast walls and tall trees, the complex targeted Saturday contained three one-story build-

ings and a large yard with lawns, geranium flower beds, a woodshed, a swing and a table soccer game. A dead deer and a twisted bathtub lay on the debris-strewn grass.

A kitchen clock, knocked from the wall, had stopped a 8:08 and 45 seconds, the time of the explosion. Cooking pots with food, including stuffed peppers, noodles and a stew, had been left on the stove, cov-

ered with aluminum foil. Thick gray dust covered crates of onions and lemons in the pantry.

In one of the living rooms, a pile of video games, including FIFA 10, were scattered on a sofa. In what looked like a children's bedroom, half an apple and a glass container of Nutella chocolate spread stood on a night stand.

Foreign ambassadors, many from Africa, were given a tour

by government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim, who told them that Africans must stick together against attempts at foreign meddling.

After news of the air strike spread in Tripoli, an angry mob burned down the British embassy buildings, including the ambassador's residence, the British Foreign Office said. Britain has taken a leading role in supporting the rebels.

## Pope beatifies John Paul II before 1.5M faithful

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—

Some 1.5 million pilgrims flooded Rome Sunday to watch Pope John Paul II move a step closer to sainthood in one of the largest Vatican Masses in history, an outpouring of adoration for a beloved and historic figure after years marred by church scandal.

The turnout for the beatification far exceeded even the most optimistic expectation of 1 million people, the number Rome city officials predicted. For Catholics filling St. Peter's Square and its surrounding streets, and for those watching around the world the beatification was a welcome hearkening back to the days when the pope was almost universally beloved.

"He was like a king to us, like a father," Marynka Ulaszewska, a 28-year-old from Ciechocinek, Poland, said, weeping. "I hope these emotions will remain with us for a long time," she said.

Pope Benedict XVI praised John Paul for turning back the seemingly "irreversible" tide of communism with faith, courage and "the strength of a

titan, a strength which came to him from God."

John Paul is universally credited with helping bring down communism in his native Poland with support for the Solidarity labor movement, accelerating the fall of the Iron Curtain.

"He rightly reclaimed for Christianity that impulse of hope which had in some sense faltered before Marxism and the ideology of progress," Benedict said. "He restored to Christianity its true face as a religion of hope."

John Paul's beatification, the fastest in modern times, has however triggered a new wave of anger from sex-abuse victims because much of the criminality occurred during his 27-year watch. Critics also say John Paul's legacy is clouded by evidence of a dwindling faith: empty churches in Europe, too few priests in North and South America, priests who violate their celibacy requirement in places like Africa and a general decline of Catholicism in former Christian strongholds.

John Paul's defenders argue

that an entire generation of new priests owe their vocations to John Paul, and that millions of lay Catholics found their faith during the World Youth Days, which were a hallmark of his papacy.

Vatican officials have insisted that the saint-making process isn't a judgment of how John Paul administered the church but rather whether he lived a life of Christian virtue.

Benedict put John Paul on the fast-track for possible sainthood when he dispensed with the traditional five-year waiting period and allowed the beatification process to begin weeks after his April 2, 2005, death. Benedict was responding to chants of "Santo Subito!" or "Sainthood Immediately" which erupted during John Paul's funeral.

With a sea of red and white Polish flags fluttering in the square, the beatification Sunday evoked the days after the pope's death in 2005, when some 3 million faithful held vigil under his studio window and filed past his remains for days on end.

## Gulf bid to end Yemen crisis nears collapse

**SANA'A, Yemen** (AP)—A deal

to end Yemen's political crisis neared collapse on Sunday after the country's embattled president refused to personally sign it, leaving a deadlock that threatens to plunge the impoverished Arab nation and key U.S. ally deeper into disorder and bloodshed.

An unraveling of the deal for Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down after nearly three months of protests against his rule would greatly increase the prospects of more bloodshed in a nation long beset by serious conflict and deep poverty and which is home to al-Qaida's most active offshoot.

At least 140 people have been killed in the government's crackdown on the protesters, who have nonetheless grown in number week after week. The violence, which has included sniper attacks, has prompted several top military commanders, ruling party members, dip-

lomats and others to defect to the opposition, largely isolating the president.

Still, Saleh has clung to power, thanks in part to the key backing of Yemen's best trained and equipped military units, which are under the command of one of his sons and other close relatives.

"There will likely be more violence now," said analyst Fares al-Saqqaf. "In the end, we may have foreign intervention to end the chaos and bloodshed," he predicted.

Continued unrest in Yemen risks the stability of a region that is home to important shipping lanes at the southern mouth of the Red Sea. Yemen is also close to the massive oil and gas fields of the Gulf Arab region.

The country has over the years been wracked by rampant corruption, a weak central government, a Shiite rebellion in the north, a secessionist movement in the south and, since

early February, the massive protests demanding Saleh's ouster.

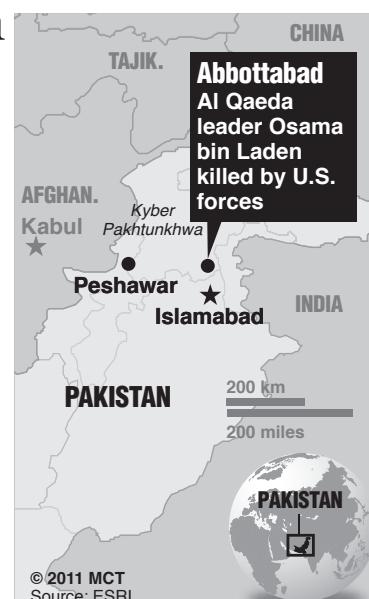
Inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia, the protests pose the most serious threat to Saleh's authoritarian rule. Saleh has sought to cling to power by offering the protesters concessions, pledging not to run again in 2013 elections or allow his son to succeed him. The protesters stood their ground, demanding his immediate resignation and his trial for the killing of protesters and corruption.

A mediation plan put forward by six U.S. allies grouped in the Gulf Cooperation Council, or GCC, looked close to fruition, with the established opposition political parties and Saleh himself agreeing to it. The plan called for Saleh to step down within 30 days and for a national unity government to run the country until elections are held.

The proposals also gave Saleh immunity from prosecution.



In this photo made on a government organized tour, Libyans hold a photo of Moammar Gadhafi's son Seif al-Arab given by a Libyan official, in Tripoli, Libya, Sunday, May 1, 2011.



## US warns of anti-American violence after bin Laden

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The State Department early Monday put U.S. embassies on alert and warned of the heightened possibility for anti-American violence after the killing of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden by American forces in Pakistan.

In a worldwide travel alert released shortly after President Barack Obama late Sunday announced bin Laden's death in a U.S. military operation, the department said there was an "enhanced potential for anti-American violence given recent counterterrorism activity in Pakistan."

"Given the uncertainty and volatility of the current situation, U.S. citizens in areas where recent events could cause anti-American violence are strongly urged to limit their travel outside of their homes and hotels and avoid mass gatherings and demonstrations," it said.

The alert said U.S. embassy operations would continue "to the extent possible under the constraints of any evolving security situation." It noted that embassies and consulates may temporarily close or suspend public services, depending on conditions.

# Focus

**T**he most intense manhunt in history finally caught up with Osama bin Laden, but his life's story will be told many different ways by different people. Reviled in the West as the personification of evil, bin Laden was admired and even revered by some fellow Muslims who embraced his vision of unending jihad against the United States and Arab governments he deemed as infidels.

Bin Laden's money and preaching inspired the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that killed just under 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, and forever ripped a hole in America's feeling of security in the world.

His actions set off a chain of events that led the United States into wars in Afghanistan, and then Iraq, and a clandestine war against extreme Islamic adherents that touched scores of countries on every continent but Antarctica. America's entire intelligence apparatus was overhauled to counter the threat of more terror attacks at home.

Bin Laden was killed in an operation led by the United States, President Barack Obama said Sunday. A small team of Americans carried out the attack and took custody of bin Laden's remains, Obama said.

Bin Laden's al-Qaida organization has also been blamed for the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa that killed 231 people and the 2000 attack on the USS Cole that killed 17 American sailors in Yemen, as well as countless other plots, some successful and some foiled.

Perhaps as significant was his ability—even from hiding—to inspire a new generation of terrorists to murder in his name. Most of al-Qaida's top lieutenants have been killed or captured in the years since Sept. 11, 2001, and intelligence officials in Europe and Asia say they now see a greater threat from homegrown radical groups energized by bin Laden's cause.

Al-Qaida is not thought to have provided logistical or financial support to the group of North African Muslims who pulled off the March 11, 2004, bombings in Madrid, Spain—which killed 191 people—but they were certainly inspired by its dream of worldwide jihad. Likewise, no link has been established between al-Qaida and the four British Muslim suicide bombers who killed 52 people in London on July 7, 2005, but few believe the attack would have taken place had bin Laden not aroused the passions of young Muslim radicals the world over.

The war in Iraq—justified in part by erroneous intelligence that suggested Saddam Hussein had both weapons of mass destruction and a link to al-Qaida—has become the cauldron in which the world's next generation of terrorists are honing their skills.

While scant evidence has emerged of a link between Saddam and bin Laden's inner circle, there is no doubt that al-Qaida took advantage of the chaos of post-Saddam Iraq—helping to drag the United States into a quagmire that led to the death of some 5,000 American troops, and many scores of thousands of Iraqis. Indeed, bin Laden's legacy is a world still very much on edge.

Frightening terms like dirty bomb, anthrax and weapons of mass destruction have become staples of the global vocabulary; and others like Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib and extraordinary

rendition have fueled a burning anger in the Muslim world.

But long before bin Laden became the world's most hunted man, few believed fate would move him in that direction.

Bin Laden was born in Saudi Arabia in 1954. He became known as the most pious of the sons among his wealthy father's 54 children. Bin Laden's path to militant Islam began as a teenager in the 1970s when he got caught up in the fundamentalist movement then sweeping Saudi Arabia. He was a voracious reader of Islamic literature and listened to weekly sermons in the holy city of Mecca.

Thin, bearded and over 6 feet tall, bin Laden joined the Afghans' war against invading Soviet troops in the 1980s and gained a reputation as a courageous and resourceful commander. Access to his family's considerable construction fortune certainly helped raise his profile among the mujahedeen fighters.

At the time, bin Laden's interests converged with those of the United States, which backed the "holy war" against Soviet occupation with money and arms.

When bin Laden returned home to Saudi Arabia, he was showered with praise and donations and was in demand as a speaker in mosques and homes. It did not take long for his aims to diverge from those of his former Western supporters.

"When we buy American goods, we are accomplices in the murder of Palestinians," he said in one of the cassettes made of his speeches from those days.

A seminal moment in bin Laden's life came in 1990, when U.S. troops landed on Saudi soil to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Bin Laden tried to dissuade the government from allowing non-Muslim armies into the land where the Prophet Muhammad gave birth to Islam, but the Saudi leadership turned to the United States to protect its vast oil reserves. When bin Laden continued criticizing Riyadh's close alliance with Washington, he was stripped of Saudi citizenship.

"I saw radical changes in his personality as he changed from a calm, peaceful and gentle man interested in helping Muslims into a person who believed that he would be able to amass and command an army to liberate Kuwait. It revealed his arrogance and his haughtiness," Prince Turki, the former Saudi intelligence chief, said in an interview with Arab News and MBC television in late 2001.

"His behavior at that time left no impression that he would become what he has become," the prince added.

The prince, who said he met bin Laden several times years ago in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, described him as "a gentle, enthusiastic young man of few words who didn't raise his voice while talking."

Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, London-based newspaper, spent 10 days with bin Laden in

# Bin Laden took a path of fanaticism and terror

By PAUL HAVEN  
Associated Press

an Afghan cave in 1996. He said bin Laden "touched the root of the grievances of millions in the Arab world" when he presented himself as the alternative to Arab regimes that have been incapable of liberating Arab land from Israeli occupation and restoring pride to their people.

He said bin Laden and his followers never feared death.

"Those guys spoke about death the way young men talk about going to the disco," Atwan said. "They envied those who fell in battle because they died as martyrs in God's cause."

Still, bin Laden had a knack for staying alive.

After being kicked out of Saudi Arabia, bin Laden sought refuge in Sudan. The African country acceded to a U.S. request and offered to turn bin Laden over to Saudi Arabia in 1996, but his native country declined, afraid a trial would destabilize the country.

Back on familiar terrain in Afghanistan—allowed in by the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani—bin Laden and his al-Qaida network prepared for the holy war that turned him into Washington's No. 1 enemy.

When the Taliban—who would eventually give him refuge—first took control of Kabul in September 1996, bin Laden and his Arab followers kept a low profile, uncertain of their welcome under the new regime. The Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar called bin Laden to southern Kandahar from his headquarters in Tora Bora and eventually through large and continual financial contributions to the isolated Taliban, bin Laden became dependent on the religious militia for his survival.

In Afghanistan, he would wake before dawn for prayers, then eat a simple breakfast of cheese and bread. He closely monitored world affairs. Almost daily, he and his men—Egyptians, Yemenis, Saudis, among others—practiced attacks, hurling explosives at targets and shooting at imaginary enemies.

He also went horseback riding, his favorite hobby, and enjoyed playing traditional healer, often prescribing honey, his favorite food, and herbs to treat colds and other illnesses. In Afghanistan, bin Laden was often



In this 1998 file photo, al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is shown in Afghanistan. AP

accompanied by his four wives—the maximum Islam allows. Estimates on the number of his children range up to 23.

Al-Qaida's first major strike after bin Laden returned to Afghanistan was on Aug. 7, 1998, when twin explosions rocked U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Most of the victims were African passers-by, but the bombings also killed 12 Americans.

Days later, bin Laden escaped a cruise missile strike on one of his training camps in Afghanistan launched by the United States in retaliation. Bin Laden is believed to have been at the Zhawar Kili Al-Badr camp for a meeting with several of his top men, but left shortly before some 70 Tomahawk cruise missiles slammed into the dusty complex.

Since Sept. 11, bin Laden stayed a step ahead of the dragnet—perhaps the largest in history for a single individual.

As the Taliban quickly fell under pressure of the U.S. bombardment, bin Laden fled into the inhospitable mountains in the seam that separates Pakistan and Afghanistan, keeping up a spotty stream of chatter—first in video tapes and then in scratchy audio recordings—to warn his Western pursuers of more bloodshed.

Just hours after the U.S. assault on Afghanistan began on Oct. 7, 2001, bin Laden appeared in a video delivered to Al-Jazeera, an Arab satellite television station, to issue a threat to America.

"I swear by God ... neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security before we live it in Palestine, and not before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, peace be upon him," said bin Laden, dressed in fatigues.

He reappeared in a video appearance broadcast by Al-Jazeera on Dec. 27, 2001, shortly after U.S. forces apparently had him cornered in Tora Bora, a giant cave complex in eastern Afghanistan. Hundreds of al-Qaida suspects are believed to have escaped the massive U.S. bombing campaign there, and bin Laden is believed to have been among them.

During the past decade, bin Laden and al-Zawahri have appeared regularly in audio and video tapes to issue threats, and comment on a wide range

of current events, although the appearances trailed off in recent years.

In November 2002, bin Laden threatened Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Germany and Australia for their support for the United States, saying: "It is time we get even. You will be killed just as you kill, and will be bombed just as you bomb." Later, he called on Muslims to rise up against leaders in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait he saw as Washington's stooges.

In 2004, he tried a new tack, offering a "truce" to European countries that don't attack Muslims, then later saying that the United States could avoid another Sept. 11 attack if it stopped threatening the security of Muslims.

After a long silence, bin Laden stepped up his messages in 2006, and the subjects he addressed became more political. In January 2006, he addressed his comments to the American people rather than U.S. President George W. Bush because, he said, polls showed "an overwhelming majority" of Americans wanted a withdrawal from Iraq. He even recommended Americans pick up a copy of the book "The Rogue State," which he said offered a path to peace.

At several points in the years since the Sept. 11 attacks, bin Laden's capture or death had appeared imminent. After the March 2003 arrest of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, officials in Islamabad and Washington were paraded out to deny a consistent stream of rumors that bin Laden had been captured.

U.S. forces poured into the border region looking for him and former Taliban and Taliban in hiding said bin Laden had constantly been on the move, traveling through the mountains with a small entourage of security.

Through it all, bin Laden vowed repeatedly that he was willing to die in his fight to drive the Israelis from Jerusalem and Americans from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

"America can't get me alive," bin Laden was quoted as saying in an interview with a Pakistani journalist conducted shortly after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. "I can be eliminated, but not my mission."

# Overdrive

## Hyundai skillfully disguises Equus' plebeian pedigree

By BARRY SPYKER  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

If you're looking to impress the Joneses next door, Hyundai's new top-of-the-line luxury sedan, the Equus, may disappoint. Oh, Hyundai has concealed its brand well enough to evade immediate detection. But, sooner or later, inquiring Joneses will want to know.

And you'll have to reveal that, yes, it is a Hyundai—and you'll have to admit you spent around \$60,000 on a Hyundai.

But if you're more interested in impressing yourself, the outlook gets much brighter. The Equus is beautifully styled and has a spacious, luxury-laden interior and a cushy ride.

And, if you're looking to impress your checkbook and sense of value, the Equus will light up the night.

Hyundai has built a reputation on value, and the Equus is another shining example, offering a list of luxury features that could cost nearly twice as much with one of those big-name luxury cars.

The Equus interior greets you with elegance—and a slew of standard fea-

tures. There are no options, by the way, but two trim levels: Signature and Ultimate.

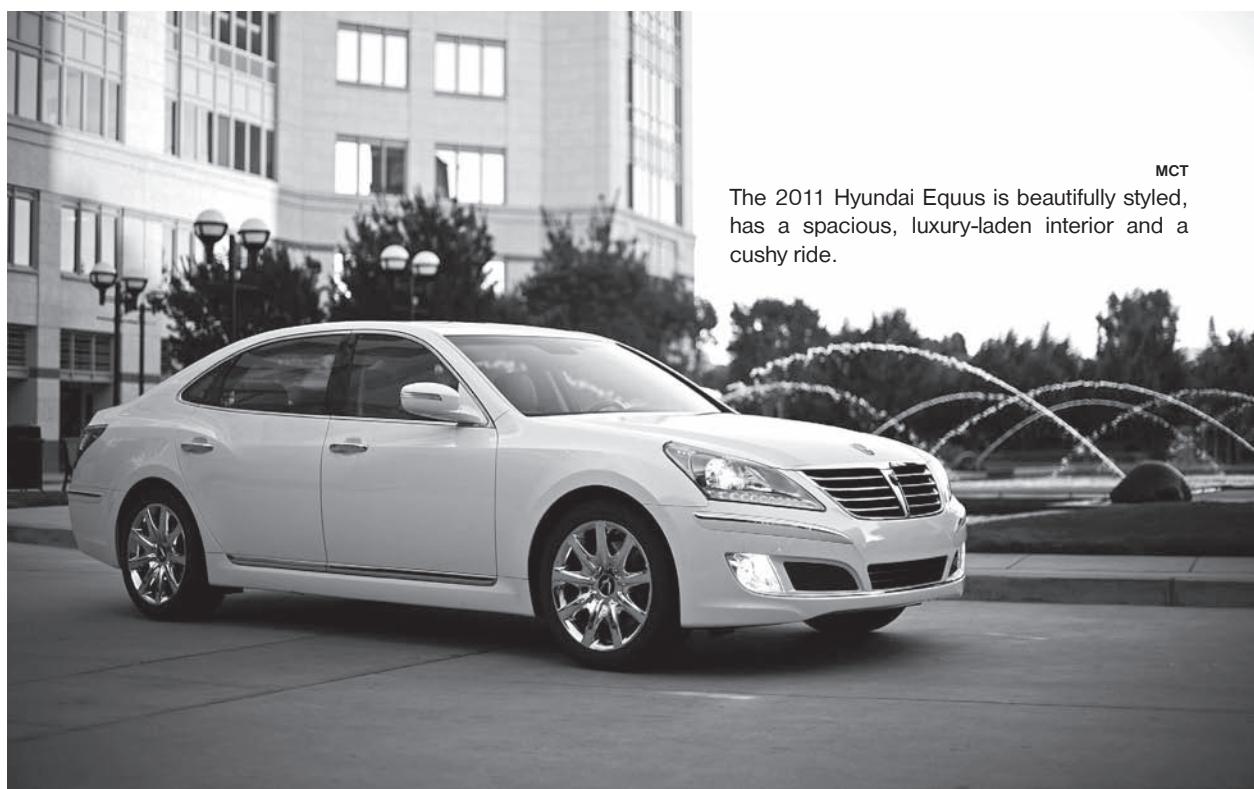
Everyone gets birch or walnut trim, abundant leather on panels that neatly and beautifully fit as they should, and Alcantara ceiling lining. Everyone also gets heated and cooled seats up front, a navigation system with 8-inch screen, and a top-shelf, superb-sounding Lexicon stereo.

And both trims get driver's-seat massage, though it's nothing to get excited about. Not really relaxing or therapeutic.

Move up to the Ultimate trim and back-seat riders will bless you. Two reclining seats replace the bench, and one of them has a massager and retractable footrest. But a cautionary note on the footrest—my daughter's feet got snagged on the seats in front. Seems you can't be too tall—and she's only 5-foot-7.

A refrigerator in the rear console keeps drinks cool for the longer trips. And a rear entertainment system with eight-inch screen took her mind off tender feet. A 608-watt, 6-disc audio system blasted great sound.

Equus' interior is amazingly spa-



**MCT**  
The 2011 Hyundai Equus is beautifully styled, has a spacious, luxury-laden interior and a cushy ride.



## Brand-new shocks likely not source of 'clunk'

By PAUL BRAND  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION:** I accidentally backed my 2004 Buick LeSabre into a concrete curb on the passenger side. While driving home, I heard a loud "clunk-clunk-clunk" at every bump in the road. My local shop inspected the undercarriage, said the shocks were leaking and replaced them. The "clunk-clunk-clunk" is still there. I went to the dealership and they also said the shocks were bad and replaced them again. The "clunk-clunk-clunk" is still there. The car has only 77,000 miles on it. What should I do?

**ANSWER:** Apparently, the shocks aren't the problem. Have the shop or dealer take a close look at the ball stud on the arms of the automatic level control sensor assembly. If one of the arms is bent slightly or the ball stud/pivot was damaged by the curb, it may

be catching as the arm moves up and down with the suspension. The noise you describe also can be associated with a broken or worn sway bar link or damaged sway bar or bushing.

**Q: I own a 1997 3-liter Ford Taurus with 112,000 miles. When I move forward from a stop, the car hesitates. The "service engine soon" light has been on for several months, and the code is P0430. Could a clogged catalytic converter be causing the acceleration problem? A shop replaced the converter with an aftermarket one. A few weeks later, the light came on again, and I started having acceleration problems again. I've had the car for 10 years, and I'd really like to know what the problem is before I bring it in again.**

**A:** Have the spark plugs ever been

replaced? New plugs were due at 100,000 miles in normal service or 60,000 miles in severe service.

Since you've seen fault codes associated with the converter, the front oxygen sensor may be part of the problem. A scan tool can monitor its "switch" rate—an older oxygen sensor may not be able to respond quickly enough to changes.

Anything that causes the engine to run too rich or too lean can create the hesitation you describe. Check for any type of vacuum leak, a faulty or contaminated mass airflow sensor, a leaky fuel injector or fuel pressure regulator or an exhaust leak upstream of the oxygen sensor. Even old, high-resistance spark plug wires can cause this symptom.

There are many possible causes, but make sure you start with the basics.

lags in stopping power when compared to the luxury competition.

But the ride is quiet and smooth like a luxury car should be. Interior noise is minimal even at highway speeds. And a six-speed automatic tranny shifts as smoothly as a freshly paved street.

Equus has plenty of power, driven by a 4.6-liter V-8 that puts out 385 hp with a pulling power (torque) of 333 foot-pounds. Those figures are better than some, short of others. Zero-to-60 has been rated at anywhere from 5.9 to 6.5 seconds. But who's racing an Equus?

EPA mileage figures say 16 mpg city, 24 highway.

Equus offers its passengers protection with nine air bags: dual front, front

and rear side-impact, driver's knee bag and roof-mounted side-curtain bags.

Hyundai is going all out to impress the most discriminating of buyers. These folks will even bring the car to your home or place of business for an initial test drive. They'll also pick it up and bring it to the dealer for routine maintenance during a five-year, 60,000-mile full warranty (10 years, 100,000 miles on the powertrain).

And they throw in an iPad, which contains the owner's manual.

In terms of performance and reputation, Hyundai Equus has some maturing to do in a field where Mercedes, BMW and Lexus are kings. But when you want to talk value and a list of standard luxuries that could embarrass royalty, those kings can't hold a candle to Equus.

## Converting car to burn E85 a tricky proposition

By STEVEN COLE SMITH  
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

**QUESTION:** Can I convert my car to run on E85 ethanol?

**ANSWER:** Technically, most any vehicle can be made to run on E85, which is 85 percent alcohol and 15 percent gasoline. The small percentage of gasoline does two things: It helps the engine start when it's cold, and it prevents people from drinking the pure alcohol (and no, I'm not making that up). E85 can corrode metal parts, damage rubber parts and confuse your onboard computer, but it is a legitimate replacement for pure gasoline. That said, to make the conversion yourself, or have it done independently to federal standards, would cost a fortune. The age and type of vehicle would also affect how difficult the job would be.

A few companies make genuine E85 conversion kits, the largest being Chicago-based Flex Fuel U.S. The company sells EPA-certified kits

for some Dodge, Chrysler and Ford vehicles, with local installation typically handled by Aamco. Plenty of "kits" are also available that do not have EPA certification—you can find them on eBay ranging in price from \$132 to \$700, some of them just boxes that plug into your car's computer. I'd be very careful about converting a gasoline-burning vehicle to run on E85, especially without checking to see if it will void any warranty you may have left.

In some states, converting to E85 might make financial sense, but with E85 ethanol averaging just 15 percent less in price than gasoline in Florida—and you can expect to get at least 15 percent lower mileage with E85 than gas—there is no financial reason to spend money to convert to E85, unless you're intent on making an anti-oil statement.

*Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.*

### can I fix it myself?

**A:** There's a problem with one of the crash sensor circuits. A "24" code identifies low resistance in a crash sensor circuit, a "42" code indicates high resistance or an open circuit. You can check the wiring and connections to the sensors mounted on the right and left side of the radiator grille. The air bag system is deactivated while the warning light is on, so if you can't find and fix this yourself, take the car to a professional.

*Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive trouble-shooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*

# Life & Style

## 'Potter' star Watson denies Brown bullying claims

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)**—Emma Watson, the British actress who plays Hermione Granger in the "Harry Potter" series, on Friday denied reports that she was bullied out of Brown University—an assertion backed up by fellow students who said that, if anything, she was shielded from being singled out.

"The reason I took a semester off from Brown had nothing to do with bullying," Watson wrote on her website. "I have never been bullied in my life and certainly never at Brown."

Watson said she is not sure what her plans are for the fall semester, the beginning of her third year. Like many of her "fellow Brown students," she wrote, she is considering studying abroad.

Brown has not commented on media reports this month citing an anonymous Brown "insider" who claimed Watson was bullied out of school.

A New York Daily News article posted online April 21 claimed that when Watson responded correctly to questions in class, her classmates would shout, "Three points for Gryffindor!"—a reference to the "Harry Potter" films, in which

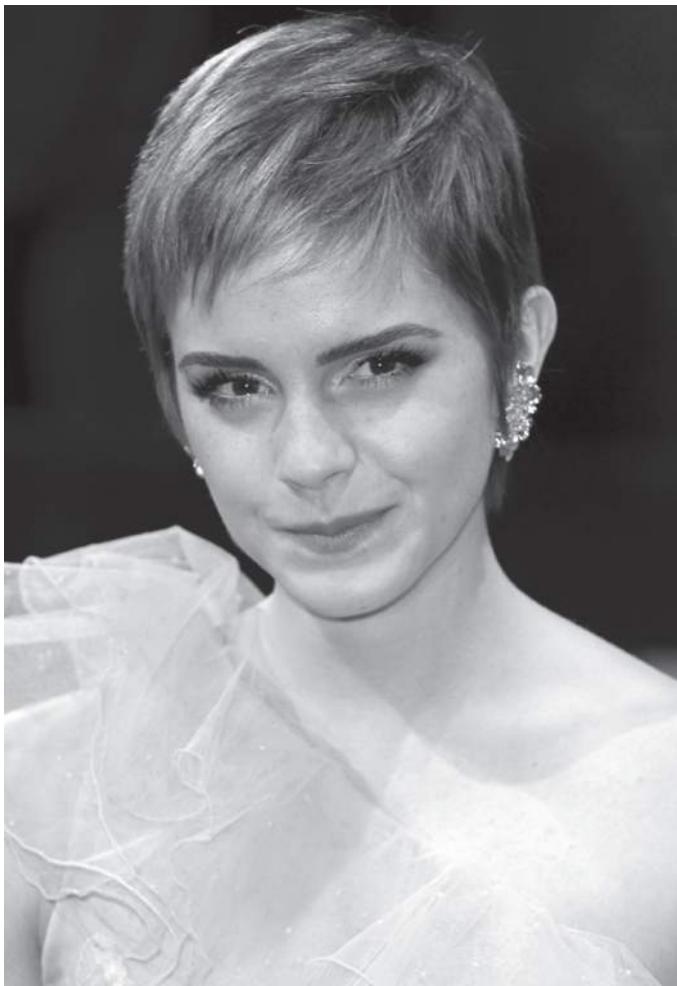
students' dormitory houses are awarded points for questions they answer correctly. Watson's character lives in Gryffindor.

"This '10 points to Gryffindor' incident never even happened," wrote Watson, who has denied that rumor before. "Accusing Brown students of something as serious as bullying and this causing me to leave seems beyond unfair."

The rumor that a student had once exclaimed "10 points for Gryffindor" after Watson answered a question correctly became widespread on campus in spring 2010, the semester during which it was alleged to have happened, according to several current and recent Brown students interviewed by The Associated Press.

But, they said, it was viewed as part of Brown folklore, and students were, if anything, protective of Watson.

"We try to take care of our own at Brown, and I think we try to make sure she feels like anybody else," said Megan Estes, a Brown junior who said she doesn't know Watson but worked on the production of a campus theater production in which the



In this Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011 FILE photo, actress Emma Watson arrives for the BAFTA Film Awards 2011, at The Royal Opera House in London.

"Harry Potter" star acted.

Apart from the Gryffindor comment, there was little sense on campus that Brown students heckled or antagonized Watson, said Estes and other students.

In class, students were respectful of Watson, said Bianca Dahl, a visiting professor who teaches a course on global humanitarian aid that Watson attended briefly at the start of the spring 2010 semester.

"There was an awareness of her, but in a protective way," Dahl said. "I can't fathom that faculty or students would allow bullying to happen."

Some students went so far as to approach Dahl to caution her that the actress was taking the course after she made reference in lectures to the "Harry Potter" books and to a humanitarian fashion line created by U2 singer Bono, she said. Watson is involved with a similar fashion line.

Allison Zimmer, who graduated last year and was an editor on the Brown campus newspaper's weekly culture magazine during Watson's freshman year, said she often encountered Watson with friends at Brown's dining hall, its bookstore and other

normal campus locations.

"At the beginning there was a little bit of an aura around her. People would say, 'Oh, I just had my first Emma Watson spotting.' But that faded after the first few weeks," Zimmer said. "It was almost uncool to mention it."

The newspaper consciously decided to cover Watson as a normal student and not to give her presence extra attention, Zimmer and other current and former editors at the newspaper said.

Watson's comments Friday come a week after Vanessa Davies, her spokeswoman, told The Associated Press that the actress would transfer to another university in the fall because she "has decided to pursue a different course which sadly Brown does not offer."

Still, it's "possible and likely she may return to Brown in her final year," Davies told the AP.

Davies did not identify the university to which Watson will be transferring, but said it was "affiliated to Brown." She did not elaborate on what that might mean.

Brown declined to comment on Watson's plans.

## 'Book of Mormon' leads Drama Desk nominations

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The profane musical "The Book of Mormon" and the zany revival of "Anything Goes" received the most nominations Friday from the Drama Desk, which honors both Broadway and off-Broadway productions.

"The Book of Mormon," by the creators of "South Park" and "Avenue Q," nabbed 12 nominations, including ones for best musical, lyrics, music, direction and choreography. Acting nominations from the show went to Andrew Rannells, Rory O'Malley and Nikki M. James.

"The Book of Mormon" has been a critical and box-office darling. It has also received six Outer Critics Circle Award nominations and a Fred & Adele Astaire Award nomination, which recognizes excellence in dance.

The musical, about two Mormon missionaries who find more than they bargained for in Africa, was written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the creators of "South Park," and Robert Lopez, co-creator of the Tony Award-winning musical "Avenue Q." All three were nominated for the show's music, book and lyrics. Casey Nicholaw, who co-directed with Parker and choreographed, also was nominated.

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The Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes" got 10 nominations, including for best musical revival and for Sutton Foster as outstanding actress, Colin Donnell as outstanding actor, Adam Godley as

## William, Kate praised for being serious

**LONDON (AP)**—The dress is packed away, the partying guests have left Buckingham Palace and Prince William returns to military duty next week instead of taking a honeymoon with Kate Middleton.

The newlyweds were praised Sunday for being aware their wedding was a luxury for austerity Britain and the best way to harness the goodwill of the people, who organized street parties, waved flags and lined London streets to catch a glimpse of them, was to get serious.

After a perfectly executed wedding, they made it clear their future married life will not be one long party. The decision was called a "welcome modern message" in a *News of the World* editorial.

"From a public relations point of view, postponing the honeymoon is a brilliant move," publicist Max Clifford said. "What it says is we have working royals, who are putting back into society, doing their duty and serving."

The crowds who gathered outside Buckingham Palace on Friday to watch the newlyweds kiss on a balcony were good-natured.

But London has also seen large protests recently against the Conservative-led government's austerity plans, which aim to cut 310,000 government jobs and raise university tuition fees. Some of the anger at the plans have been directed at the royals—Prince Charles and his wife Camilla were shaken up when their Rolls-Royce was attacked in December when a student protest turned violent.

In this climate, Buckingham Palace has been mindful of the need to not

appear too extravagant, while maintaining the pageantry and pomp that is always demanded of them.

So, the royal family all turned out in designer clothes and striking hats, but the less important royals were taken to and from the ceremony in buses. Their main wedding cake was a show-stopping multi-tiered fruit cake with dozens of handcrafted sugar flowers, but Prince William also insisted on another cake made of chocolate biscuits.

Although the guest list was long, and

included many diplomats and religious figures, the couple did not turn the event into a show business event by inviting prominent film stars and pop stars who didn't have a personal connection to the royals.

Elton John was there, but other major British figures like Paul McCartney, Judi Dench and Helen Mirren were left off the list. That gave the wedding a more serious look.

The entire wedding has helped update the public image of the monarchy. In the early days of their courtship, William and Middleton were often photographed coming out of fashionable London nightclubs, leading some commentators to suggest they were more interested in partying than becoming responsible adults.

Middleton's lack of a proper career—she once worked as an accessories buyer for a major chain store and then helped her parents' party business—added to the public impression of a slightly flighty young woman who did nothing but wait for William to propose.

The wedding and William's decision to return to work as a helicopter search and rescue pilot for the Royal Air Force has transformed them. William is now seen as a young man with a strong sense of military duty. "The extravagance, the divorces, the remoteness, the treatment of (Princess) Diana and the reaction to her death have all damaged the royal family in the eyes of the public," said Mark Austin, a commentator for the Sunday Mirror newspaper. "But in down-to-earth William and nice, middle-class Kate, maybe the monarchy has changed upon a marriage that can help it reinvent itself."



In this Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011 FILE photo, Prince William and Kate Middleton walk hand in hand from Buckingham Palace in London Saturday April 30 2011, the day after their wedding.

## CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY  
King Features Synd., Inc.

**Q:** I read somewhere that my all-time favorite band, KISS, is back in the studio working on a new album. Is that true? If so, when can we expect some new material from them?—Rodney G., via e-mail

**A:** It's true: KISS is working on a new studio album. The band began recording in April, and lead singer/songwriter Paul Stanley told me that they expect to release the album in late fall or early 2012, depending on how things go. He said: "So far, it sounds phenomenal. It'll be worth the wait, I promise." In the meantime, Paul also is working with the House Research Institute to help bring awareness to teen hearing loss. Having been born deaf in one ear as well as being a mega rock star, Paul knows all about protecting his hearing, and he wants to help spread the word any way he can. "Hearing loss affects kids, it affects teens, and it affects adults. I tell people, 'If you won't listen to somebody in a white coat, maybe you'll listen to somebody in black leather.'" For more info on how you can protect your hearing, go to [earbud.org](http://earbud.org) and [soundrules.org](http://soundrules.org).

**Q:** Will "Memphis Beat" and "Rizzoli and Isles" be back on TV? I'm already getting tired of all the summer reality shows!—Glenda F., via e-mail

**A:** "Memphis" and "Rizzoli" will be back this summer on TNT, starting June 14 and July 11, respectively. In fact, TNT recently announced its all-new summer programming slate, which includes two new series, "Franklin and Bash" with Mark-Paul Gosselaar and Breckin Meyer, and "Falling Skies" with Noah Wylie. Other returning series include "Men of a Certain Age" on June 1, "HawthoRNe" on June 14, "Leverage" on June 26 and "The Closer" on July 11. So get ready for some summertime drama, because TNT is filled to the brim with it!

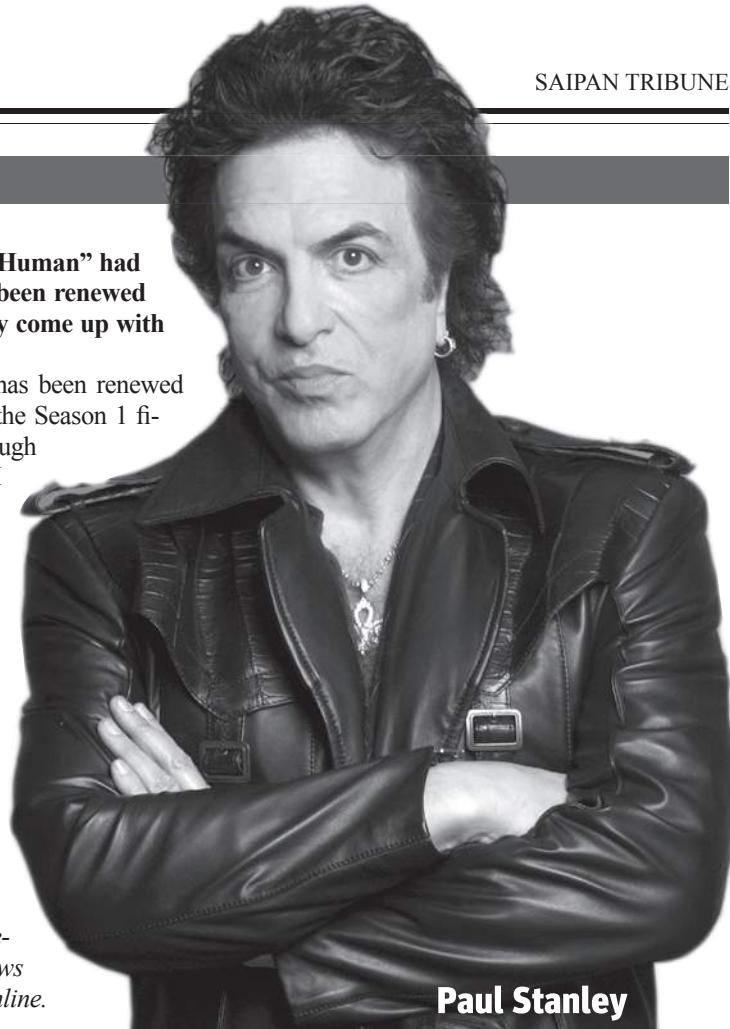
■ ■ ■  
**Q:** The Season 1 cliffhanger for Syfy's "Being Human" had me on the edge of my seat. Please tell me it has been renewed for another season—I can't wait to see what they come up with next!—Jackie H. in Montana

**A:** The vampire/werewolf/ghost fantasy-drama has been renewed for a second season by the Syfy network. In fact, the Season 1 finale shattered ratings records for the network. Although no official Season 2 premiere date has been given, I would assume to look for it come January 2012.

■ ■ ■  
**Q:** I was happy to read in your column that "In Plain Sight" would be back on USA for a fourth and fifth season, but I read that star Mary McCormack is pregnant in real life. How will they handle it on the show?—Colleen V., Las Vegas

**A:** Mary and hubby Michael Morris are expecting their third child together. Mary told People magazine that her pregnancy will be written into the show, so it will be interesting to see what this means for her character, Mary Shannon.

*Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at [letters@cindyelavsky.com](mailto:letters@cindyelavsky.com). For more news and extended interviews, visit [www.celebrityextraonline.com](http://www.celebrityextraonline.com) and [twitter.com/Celebrity\\_Extra](http://twitter.com/Celebrity_Extra).*



**Paul Stanley**

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**NOW SHOWING**



**Fast Five**

Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00  
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

**Vin Diesel, Paul Walker**  
 Action • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

Director Justin Lin (The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, Fast & Furious) returns to the helm for this adrenaline-charged sequel reuniting series stars Vin Diesel and Paul Walker for their biggest thrill ride yet. With the police in hot pursuit and wanted fugitive Dom (Diesel) in tow, Brian (Walker) and Mia (Jordana Brewster) make their way to Rio, and realize they've run out of luck. In order to earn their freedom, they'll have to pull off their biggest job yet.



**Prom**

Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:35  
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

**Aimee Teegarden, Thomas McDonell**  
 Comedy drama • Rated PG

**Synopsis**

A group of teenagers find their lives intersecting and their futures taking shape as they prepare for the most pivotal event of their high school careers. At first Nova Prescott (Aimee Teegarden) is infuriated at a classmate (Thomas McDonell) who nearly destroys her plans for prom. But the closer the big day gets, the more she realizes that he may be the perfect date.



**Madea's Big Happy Family**

Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50  
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

**Tyler Perry, Loretta Devine**  
 Comedy drama • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

When her five grown-up children fail to answer her call for a family gathering, exasperated mother Shirley calls on outspoken force of nature Madea to see that everyone comes together to discuss some rather important issues in this filmed stage play written and directed by Tyler Perry. With everyone finally assembled thanks to Madea's tenacity, Shirley addresses some important family secrets, reveals that she's in the midst of a financial crisis, and engages her sons and daughters in a serious talk about drugs.



**Beastly**

Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:45  
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

**Alex Pettyfer, Vanessa Hudgens**  
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13

**Rio**

Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35  
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

**Anne Hathaway, will.i.am**  
 Children's/family • Rated G



**Scream 4**

Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:45  
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

**Neve Campbell, David Arquette**  
 Horror • Rated R

**Hanna**

Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:45 9:45  
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:45  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:45

**Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett**  
 Thriller • Rated PG 13

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## 'Fast Five' races to furious start with \$83.6M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Fast Five" has left the competition in the dust with an \$83.6 million debut to grab the No. 1 spot at the weekend box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Universal Pictures' fifth movie in "The Fast and the Furious" franchise was by far this year's biggest opening. Its take was more than double the previous best of \$39.2 million for "Rio," the 20th Century Fox animated hit that slipped to No. 2 with \$14.4 million.

The No. 1 movie the two previous weekends, "Rio" raised its total to \$103.6 million.

"Fast Five" set a record for best April debut ever, speeding past the \$71 million haul of its predecessor, "Fast & Furious," two years ago.

The movie reteams stars Vin Diesel and Paul Walker as

outlaw driving aces and adds Dwayne Johnson as a federal agent on their tail. The action expands beyond the franchise's traditional racing scene into a broad crime romp.

"Summer began April 29," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal. "This was

1. **"Fast Five,"** \$83.6 million.
2. **"Rio,"** \$14.4 million.
3. **"Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family,"** \$10.1 million.
4. **"Water for Elephants,"** \$9.1 million.
5. **"Prom,"** \$5 million.
6. **"Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil,"** \$4.1 million.
7. **"Soul Surfer,"** \$3.3 million.
8. **"Insidious,"** \$2.7 million.
9. **"Hop,"** \$2.6 million.
10. **"Source Code,"** \$2.5 million.

The movie gave Hollywood a huge head-start on the summer season, which begins with next weekend's debut of the Paramount Pictures superhero saga "Thor."

Overall revenues totaled \$155 million, up a whopping 52 percent from the same weekend last

year, when "A Nightmare on Elm Street" was No. 1 with \$32.9 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

It was the third-straight weekend that receipts climbed, lifting Hollywood out of a prolonged downturn that began last fall. Revenues for 2011 were running 20.5 percent behind last year's just three weeks ago, but the rebound since then has left Hollywood's business down just 14.2 percent compared with 2010.

## Kid Rock accepts NAACP award in Detroit

DETROIT (AP)—Grammy-nominated artist Kid Rock told nearly 10,000 people at the Detroit NAACP branch's annual fund-raising dinner that his use of the Confederate flag during on-stage performances has nothing to do with how he feels about blacks.

"I love America. I love Detroit, and I love black people," the musician said Sunday night during the annual Fight for Freedom Fund dinner at Cobo Center.

Kid Rock, whose real name is Robert Ritchie, used the event to diffuse criticism aimed at the Detroit NAACP branch which honored him with its Great Expectations Award.

The Macomb County, Mich., native said his use of the flag derives from a popular song by legendary Southern rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Earlier, a group of about 50 people picketed outside Cobo Center in protest of the decision to honor Ritchie. The group also burned a replica of the flag, considered a symbol of racism and oppression to blacks in the South. It was carried by secessionist Southern troops in the American Civil War. The dinner is the largest fundraiser for the Detroit NAACP branch. Civil rights pioneer John Lewis gave the dinner's keynote speech.

Others also were honored Sunday night, but most of the attention was focused on Ritchie. Detroit NAACP President Wendell Anthony said Ritchie was being honored for his advocacy of the city.

The Macomb County, Mich., native said his use of the flag derives from a popular song by legendary Southern rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd.

"We're not lifting up the flag," Anthony said earlier Sunday. "We're lifting up a gentleman

who has worked very hard to be a booster for Detroit."

From the time it was first announced, the choice of Kid Rock as honoree has been criticized by some who said the use of the Confederate flag conflicts with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's message.

"It stands for hatred, bigotry, racism, murder," Detroit political consultant Adolph Mongo said of the flag. "Every bigot and racist in this country loves that flag."

Mongo helped ignite the flag about 5 p.m. It took several attempts with a cigarette lighter before the flag caught fire to chants of, "Burn, baby, burn."

The Confederate flag symbolizes racial oppression, but also pride in the South for many Southerners, said Kirk Mayes, 35, of Detroit.

# Deadline looms for 'Two and a Half Men' decision

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There are 2 1/2 weeks left for Warner Bros. Television and CBS to decide the fate of "Two and a Half Men."

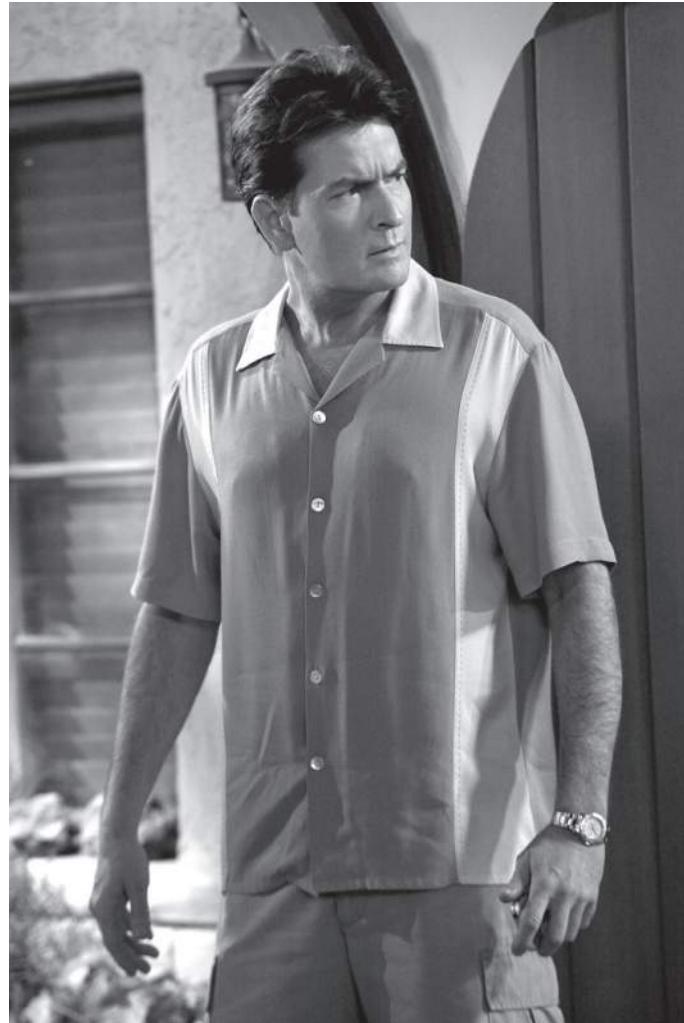
With CBS unveiling its fall schedule for advertisers in New York on May 18, deadline pressure is on the network, Warner and "Men" executive producer Chuck Lorre to develop a post-Charlie Sheen version of the sitcom or kill what's been a highly lucrative property for all.

Whether the show is returning, who's in the cast and whether a revamped format would be ready for a fall debut or be delayed until midseason will be resolved before the "upfront" sales presentation to Madison Avenue, according to an executive close to the situation.

The executive spoke on condition of anonymity Friday because Warner and CBS would not authorize public comment on the show's status.

Speculation has swirled about who might fill the void left by Sheen, joining Jon Cryer and Angus T. Jones in the cast that also features Holland Taylor. Some actors seen as potential candidates, including John Stamos and Rob Lowe, have indicated their interests are elsewhere.

Jay Mohr says he'd jump at the chance. The actor-comedian, whose credits include the sitcoms "Action!" and "Gary Unmarried," is playing what was



In this image released by CBS, Charlie Sheen is shown in a scene from the CBS comedy, "Two and a Half Men."

described to him as a "Charlie Sheen-esque" type in Sunday's season debut of USA's "Law & Order: Criminal Intent."

Stepping in to the sitcom for Sheen is far different than trying

to fill the shoes of a "beloved man" like John Ritter, who died while starring in "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter," he said.

"This is a guy who lit a match,

lit the fuse, and it took off," Mohr said of the former "Two and a Half Men" star.

It's been nearly two months since Warner fired Sheen in the show's eighth season, a move that followed the hard-living actor's bouts of wild partying, repeated hospitalizations and a bitter media campaign against his studio bosses who shut down production.

When Warner announced its decision to can him on March 7, it took pains to note that the show itself had not been canceled and its future was undecided.

Since then, Sheen's offbeat stage tour has consumed attention. So has the actor's \$100 million lawsuit against Warner and Lorre, and Sheen's custody fight with Brooke Mueller over their twin sons.

Despite the turmoil Sheen has suggested that he might return to the show, a prospect the studio has flatly rejected. The actor had been among TV's highest-paid at a reported \$1.8 million per episode for "Men."

The show itself is not easily dismissed, consistently ranked as TV's No. 1 sitcom and the sitcom leader in syndication.

Neither is Lorre, an increasingly powerful force with CBS as the creative mind behind "The Big Bang Theory" and "Mike & Molly." CBS and Warner have reason to keep Lorre happy, whether that means keeping "Men" alive or not.

## Nearly 23 million Americans watched royal wedding

over 11 different networks. The company's measurement was for the period of 6 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. EDT, when the ceremony was taking place.

Websites reported high traffic, too. ABCNews.com said it's online traffic Friday was its highest since the 2008 presidential election. And, E! Online said its 23.6 million

watched worldwide.

page views on Friday was its most ever.

The wedding was telecast on ABC, CBS, NBC, Telemundo, Univision, BBC America, CNN, E! Entertainment, Fox News Channel, MSNBC and TLC.

## Publisher insists Harper Lee cooperated with book

NEW YORK (AP)—The publisher of a book about Harper Lee is insisting that the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird" cooperated with the project.

Earlier this week, Penguin Press announced it had acquired "The Mockingbird Next Door: Life With Harper Lee," a memoir by former Chicago Tribune reporter Marja Mills. The publisher said the book was written with "direct access" to Lee, who has rarely talked to the press over the past half century. "To Kill a Mockingbird," released in 1960, was her only novel.

Lee, who turned 85 on Thursday, then issued a statement through the law firm Barnett, Bugg, Lee & Carter in Monroeville, Ala., where she is based. The statement said she had not "authorized such a book" or "willingly participated."

But on Friday, Penguin released a letter from Mills to the author's sister, Alice Lee, dated March 20, 2011.

## Whoopi's funky footwear gets laughs in Austria



In this photo made available on Sunday, May 1, 2011, US actress and co-producer of the musical "Sister Act" speaks during a press presentation at the Ronacher Theater in Vienna, Friday, April 29, 2011.

VIENNA (AP)—Whoopi Goldberg is in Austria to promote "Sister Act," with her trademark

slapstick humor.

She slipped off her high-heeled sandals at Vienna's

## Mohr relishes 'Law & Order: Criminal Intent' role

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jay Mohr says appearing on "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" made him more nervous than he ever felt working opposite Hollywood's biggest stars.

Mohr, who calls "Criminal Intent" his favorite TV show, guest stars as a hard-living

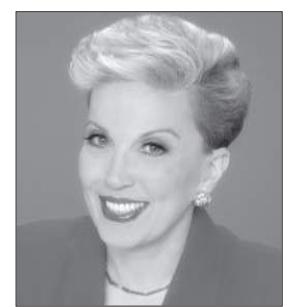
fashion designer on Sunday's season-debut episode airing at 9 p.m. EDT on USA Network.

The first scene filmed by Mohr put his character in the interrogation room with detectives investigating a murder.

Mohr says he felt intimidated working with series stars Vin-

## Woman secretly in love wants coaching on what to do now

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who is in love with my former high school coach. I don't know if I should tell him. I first realized I loved him about a year and a half after I met him. We had an extremely close relationship, but it was not inappropriate. He is 13 years older than I am.

After two years of getting to know him and forming a strong friendship, he moved across the country for work. Since then, I have entered college and we see each other only on holidays and in the summer. Every time I see him, we go back to our normal, wonderful relationship as though nothing has changed.

I was in denial about my feelings for him. I told myself it was puppy love and couldn't work out because of the age difference and the distance. But after four years of pining for him, and several failed romances with others, I realize I deeply love him. We have a unique connection, but he has a reputation as a "player," so I can't be sure he feels the same. I don't want to ruin what we have, but I want more. Should I finally reveal my feelings?

### HURTING BADLY IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR HURTING BADLY: You and your former coach are both adults. I see no reason why you shouldn't tell him how you feel. However, if he responds affirmatively, please be careful about how you proceed with this relationship. As you said—he has a reputation as a player, and men with a craving for variety can be very unreliable.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am in my mid-50s, divorced for many years, and have two grown children. I began seeing a delightful gentleman about three years ago. (I'll call him Jack.) He was dating several women at the time, and after a few months, I made it clear that we would have to have an exclusive relationship or I could not go on seeing him. Jack reluctantly agreed and kept his promise.

Four months ago, I demanded a commitment from him. I knew I loved him and wanted to spend the rest of my life with him. He told me he loved me, but marriage is out of the question—and if that is the only way I'd stay with him, we have to say goodbye.

I think I have made a terrible mistake, Abby. What are your thoughts on this?

DEPRESSED IN DES MOINES

DEAR DEPRESSED: Since marriage is important to you, you were right to lay it on the line to him. His unwillingness, regardless of how nicely put, to take your relationship to another level means he wasn't as committed to you as you were to him. And once your self-esteem heals, you will realize that the person who made the terrible mistake was Jack.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: May I offer a suggestion concerning elderly people? I know this from experience.

When writing to an older adult, every so often include some labels bearing your name and address. This makes it easier for them to respond and for the post office to decipher your address.

I have an elderly friend who has severe arthritis. When we correspond, it takes me at least 20 minutes to make out what she has written. The labels have helped us both.

INDEPENDENCE, MO., READER

DEAR READER: I'm pleased to pass the word along. And because readers have complained that they get these labels along with solicitations from charities and don't know what to do with them, this would be a good way to put them to use. Thank you for the suggestion.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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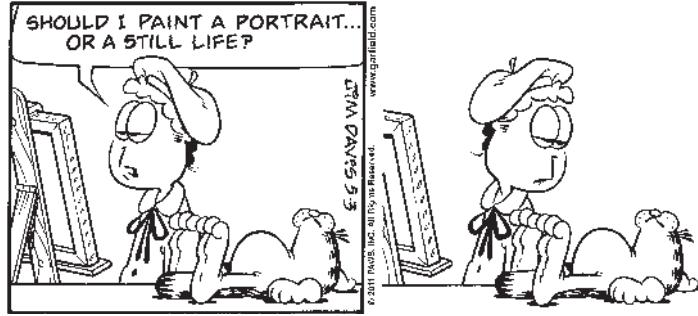
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®



By Jim Davis

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By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



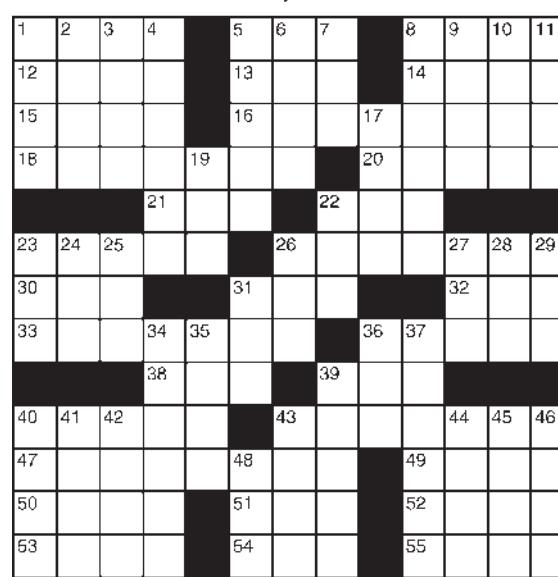
By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	33	Spring-field	19	That
1 Teen's woe	33	surname	1	Tosses in
5 "El —"	36	Moolah	2	Cistern
8 Hand warmer	38	Choose	3	"Peter Pan"
12 Haul behind	39	Baby food	4	One full
13 Modern-day evidence	40	Flight	5	of Christ-
14 Norway's capital	43	compon-ent	6	mas
15 Deep sound from a bell	47	State	7	spirit?
16 "Swiss Family —"	48	capital on the Pearl	8	28
18 Big name in TV dinners	49	River	9	Bobby of
20 Exposed	50	"Locksley Hall"	10	hockey
21 Resis-tance measure	51	poet	11	lore
22 Energy	52	Beige	12	29
23 Canyon	53	Oodles	13	Born
26 Noted NYC avenue	54	Slithery	14	31
30 Lawyers' org.	55	— out a living	15	Make
31 Lustrous black		52	Right on the map?	1,000
32 Exist		53	10	— of light"
		54	Iceberg	34
		55	chunk	35
			11	Agile
			12	36
			13	Fond
			14	du —, Wis.
			15	37
			16	Mainte-nance
			17	39
			18	"What's My Line?"
			19	group
			20	40
			21	Remain
			22	41
			23	Far (Pref.)
			24	42
			25	Unsigned (Abbr.)
			26	43
			27	Gag
			28	44
			29	Cicatrix
			30	45
			31	Approximately
			32	46
			33	Crazy
			34	47
			35	Witness

Yesterday's answer 5-3



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**STUMPED?**

## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Cheryl Burke, 27; Christina Hendricks, 36; Dule Hill, 36; Frankie Valli, 77

**Happy Birthday:** The harder you try pushing forward, the greater the obstacles will become. Rigidity will hold you back and flexibility will be your saving grace. Finding common ground and compromising are the routes to reaching your goals. Emotions must not be allowed to interfere with productivity. Your numbers are 7, 16, 22, 24, 30, 36, 44

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Taking on additional responsibility will help eliminate the pressure being felt by a friend or relative. Be careful not to overextend yourself in the process. Romance is in the stars. **★★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on what's important, whether it's getting your homework or job finished or simply running errands for someone who needs your help. A conversation with an old friend will remind you of past dreams and hopes. **★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Keep a close eye on your money. You can expect to receive extra cash but you can lose it just as quickly if you aren't careful. Stick to a budget or put your money into a solid, safe, long-term investment. Added discipline will lead to bigger accomplishments. **★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): If you are too giving, someone will take advantage of you. Protecting your interest emotionally and financially is important. A partnership will face uncertainty. Keep an open mind but don't go

down a path that isn't right for you. **★★★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Hard work will pay off but if you slack off, know that someone will do whatever possible to make you look bad. A change of scenery will do you good. Love is in the stars but don't mix business with pleasure. **★★**

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A lifestyle change or updating your old philosophy will give you a boost and allow you to meet people who feel the same way you do. Making alterations now will allow you greater freedom in the future. Don't put your money on the table before you try out the merchandise. **★★★★**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of legal and health issues quickly. The less you leave undone, the better. Don't let anyone dissuade you from doing what you feel is necessary to protect your home, family or finances. Get professional help before you sign legal papers. **★★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A new partnership can bring you good fortune and motivation and inspire your creativity. Direct communication will bring the best results. A change of plans will turn out to be a blessing. **★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Adventure, excitement and physical challenge will stimulate your senses and motivate you. Making changes to your home or an addition to your entertainment center will help bring loved ones closer together. A hidden asset will turn out to be more valuable than you thought. **★★**

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to home and take care of any personal matters that concern family or your residence. Don't let friends or neighbors push you into anything you don't want to do. Travel plans and communication will not run smoothly. **★★★★**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick to the people you know and trust. A change in the way you do things or how you earn your living looks favorable. Opportunity is about to knock, so be ready to jump at any chance fulfill your dreams. **★★**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll impress others with your insight and empathy. Someone you have done business with in the past will do you a favor or have a lead that can help you advance and boost your income. It's you who should be doing the pushing. **★★★★**

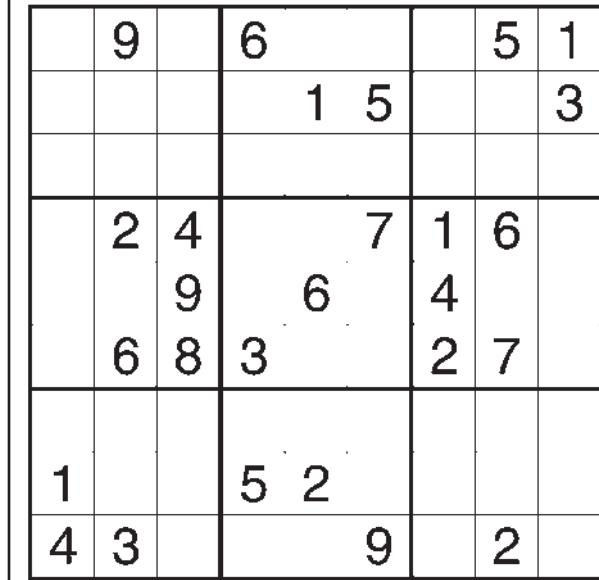
**BIRTHDAY BABY:** You are creative and aggressive. You finish what you start. You are dedicated, stubborn and reliable.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

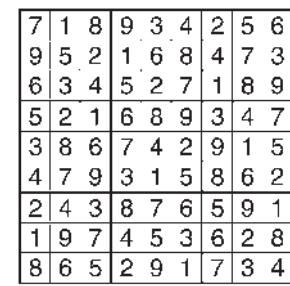
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CANADA'S MARITIME PROVINCES

E A N O I T A R E D E F N O C  
Y T I N U M M O C G R O W T H  
S L A N I G I R O B A A O Q D  
D A A R E S O U R C E G T U R  
S N C B T E S M L I F N E A A  
C T A A R S G S R I T T I W  
O I R L D A H A S A N M T N D  
T C H O D I D L T D H O O T E  
T C S S P N A O U I C C L O E  
I I I S I N U S R S R L R U C  
S T R E D T T O A E I E A R N  
H L I S R R I V F A G W H I I  
Y E N D Y S O R S W N I C S R  
K C I W S N U R B W E N O M P  
E U R O P E N I A M I N I N G

Solution: 7 letters

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Aborigines, Acadia, Arts, Atlantic, British, Celtic, Charlottetown, Cham, Community, Confederation, Europe, Film, Growth, Heritage, Industry, Irish, Islands, Labrador, Maine, Mining, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ports, Prince Edward, Quaint, Region, Resource, Sail, Scottish, Ships, Sydney, Tourism, Welcoming  
Yesterday's Answer: Family

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• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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### Saturday Issue:

■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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**WHATZIT?**<sup>TM</sup>

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**FUSS PALAVER**  
**HUSTLE NIL BUSTLE**  
**FLURRY HOO-HA**

# Wade powers Heat over Celtics in Game 1



**MIAMI** (AP)—Dwyane Wade knew his regular-season numbers against Boston were lacking.

He also knew that wouldn't matter in the playoffs.

And Game 1 - which seemed more like Round 1 - of what's already an emotionally charged series went to Wade and the Miami Heat.

Wade scored 38 points on 14 of 21 shooting, James Jones set a Miami postseason record with 25 points off the bench, and the Heat beat the Celtics 99-90 on Sunday to open their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

"We're going to have to fight for every inch, every game we get," Wade said. "Right now, we won Game 1. We're supposed to. We'll go back and focus on winning Game 2. We're at home, we have home-court advantage. They're just trying to come in and steal one like they've done in the past. So it's our job to come out with the same mentality in the next one."

LeBron James finished with 22 points, six rebounds and five assists for Miami, which led by as many as 19 before a fiery finish that saw plenty of players jawing at each other - more than that in some cases. Paul Pierce was ejected with 7 minutes left, after picking up two technicals in skirmishes with Wade and Jones within a span of 59 seconds.

Ray Allen scored 25 points for Boston, which lost for the first time in five games this postseason. Pierce scored 19 and Delonte West finished with 10 for the Celtics, while Rajon Rondo and Kevin Garnett were held to a combined 14 points on 6-for-19 shooting.

"There's so many things we need to do to get better," Allen said. "I think everybody in that locker room knows that, just from a small conversation we just had."

Game 2 is Tuesday in Miami.

Given how Boston ousted Miami last season, and ended James' playoff runs with Cleveland in 2008 and 2010, these teams have history - and more than a bit of dislike, and that was apparent. It was physical throughout, with West earning a technical and Jermaine O'Neal picking up a flagrant foul along the way, before things really got hot in the fourth.

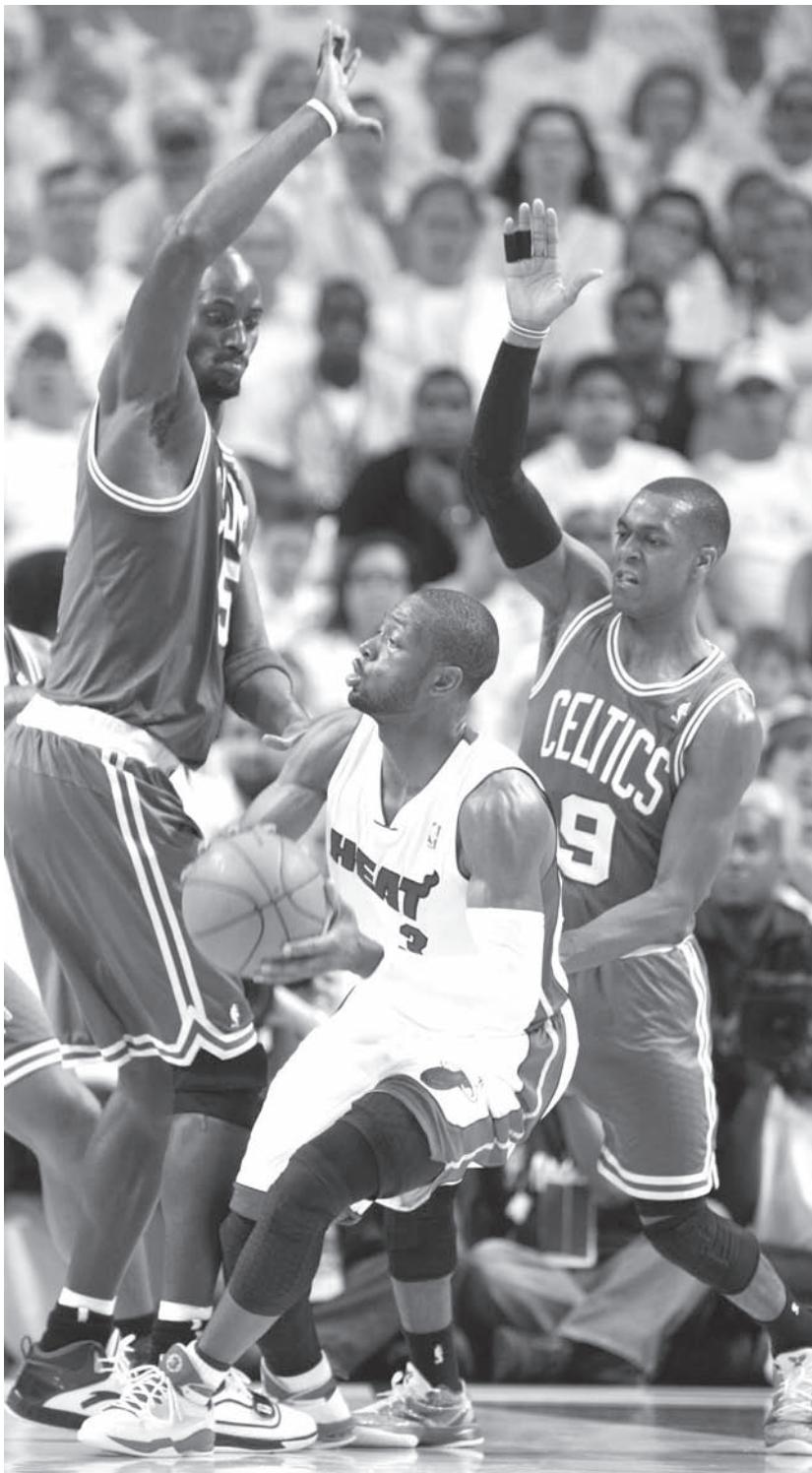
Pierce took offense with a hard foul by Jones, each getting double-technical there, and Pierce and Wade - who have a bit of history themselves - renewed acquaintances not long after that.

Referee Ed Malloy called both for double-technical, and Pierce was screaming as he departed. Boston coach Doc Rivers said he thought Jones and Wade went at Pierce too aggressively on the two plays that ended his forward's night.

"I thought both were flagrant fouls, personally, and I don't think we should react to either one," Rivers said.

Wade acted like he didn't hear what Pierce said to him on the play with 7 minutes left, dismissing it as "gibberish." Crew chief Dan Crawford said Pierce's second technical was merited because he directed profanity at Wade.

"And in the rulebook, that is a verbal taunt," Crawford said. "And it just so happened to be Pierce's second technical foul."



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, center, looks for an opening past Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett, left, and Rajon Rondo (9) during the second half of Game 1 of a second-round NBA playoff basketball series, Sunday, May 1, 2011, in Miami. The Heat defeated the Celtics, 99-90.

Pierce's first technical, Crawford said, came after he made contact with Jones during a dead ball period. Rivers said he knew the Heat would try to play physical ball, but said what he saw Sunday didn't apply.

"That's chippy," Rivers said. "That ain't physical."

Countered Wade: "Very interesting that Doc said that."

Pierce did not speak with reporters postgame.

After he departed, the Celtics tried to rally. Allen made a 3-pointer to get within 90-82, but Chris Bosh and Wade had Miami's next two baskets, restoring a double-digit lead that wasn't again seriously threatened.

"Every game is going to go like this," Wade said. "We look forward to the challenge."

Wade averaged 12.8 points on 28 percent shooting against the Celtics in four regular-season matchups, his worst numbers in both categories against any opponent this season.

Whatever wasn't working then, well, it was fixed for Game 1.

He had nine field goals and 23 points by halftime - while the entire Boston starting five combined for eight field goals and 21 points in the first 24 min-

utes. He had a steal to set up Mario Chalmers' layup with 0.1 seconds left in the first quarter that put Miami up 20-14, and added a more spectacular buzzer-beater near halftime.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra wanted a 20-second timeout to set up the final possession of the half, only to get overruled - surely without complaint, either. Wade waved it off, then kept waving his arm to clear his teammates away, setting up a drive past West for a bank shot with 0.8 ticks remaining that put Miami ahead 51-36 at the break.

## Grizzlies 114, Thunder 101

In Oklahoma City, Zach Randolph and the Memphis Grizzlies powered their way to another playoff upset - not that he considers it one.

Randolph had a playoff career-high 34 points and 10 rebounds, Marc Gasol added 20 points and 13 boards, and the Grizzlies outmatched the Oklahoma City Thunder inside for a 114-101 victory in the opening game of the Western Conference semifinals on Sunday.

"We believe," Randolph said. "We definitely believe. Our confidence is up high. I tell the guys we can compete and play with anybody."

Just as they did in a first-round upset of top-seeded San Antonio, Randolph and Gasol provided enough punch to give eighth-seeded Memphis a road victory in Game 1.

Randolph and Gasol each scored 20 points in the same regular-season game only once this season, but did it in Game 1 against the Spurs and again to negate the Thunder's home-court advantage right from the start.

"I think we always try to do that. The thing is that it's not always possible," Gasol said. "We always try to come out and execute and play the right way. It's not always possible. Teams are going to adjust, and they're going to do something different."

"We've got to keep being hungry, keep being unselfish offensively and defensively and keep playing the right way."

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Oklahoma City.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 33 points and 11 rebounds. Russell Westbrook scored 29, but the All-Star tandem couldn't overcome a big advantage in the paint for Memphis.

Randolph had two games with at least 30 points and 10 rebounds in the regular season against the Thunder, as Memphis won the series 3-1. And he was at it again from the tip, scoring the Grizzlies' first seven points to provide them a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

"You can't stop him. You've got to make them shoot tough shots like he's been doing, but if he's making them, he's tough to stop," Durant said.

"He's an animal."

Durant went on to say that he considers Randolph, a 10th-year veteran who's bounced around the league with no postseason success until this year, to be "the best power forward in the league."

"I've got to agree with that. Thanks, KD," Randolph said with a smile. "I appreciate that."

Before this year, Randolph hadn't made the playoffs since his second year in the league with Portland in 2003 and - like the Grizzlies - had never won a postseason series before.

All that is changing now for Randolph, an All-Star choice last season who was left out of the showcase this year.

"I've felt like I don't get a lot of respect I deserve. It's nothing personal or nothing," Randolph said. "I just try to come out and be the same player, consistent during the regular season and during playoffs. I just try to be this way all the time, play my way all the time, and not be up and down."

"The good players be consistent and stay consistent, not just playoffs but during the regular season, also."

The only player in the league to average at least 20 points and 10 rebounds each of the last three seasons, Randolph teams with Gasol to make the Grizzlies the NBA's most productive team in the paint with a 51.5-point average.

The Grizzlies racked up 52 against the Thunder, who had bolstered their interior defense with their trade deadline pickup of Kendrick Perkins from Boston.

## Bulls' Thibodeau wins Coach of the Year

**DEERFIELD, Ill.** (AP)—Tom Thibodeau waited about two decades to become an NBA head coach. It didn't take him long to be recognized as one of the best once he got the chance.

Thibodeau is the NBA's Coach of the Year after leading the Chicago Bulls to 62 wins in his first season to tie a league record set by Paul Westphal.

The Chicago Tribune first reported Thibodeau's selection, which was no surprise the way the Bulls dominated during the regular season. Now, after a tough five-game series against Indiana in the opening round, they'll open the Eastern Conference semifinals against Atlanta on Monday.

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"After being here for a year, I realize how fortunate I am to be here," Thibodeau said. "It's a great city, great fans, great organization, great players, and if it meant waiting 20 years to get this job, it was well worth the wait."

Center Joakim Noah said

Thibodeau was "very well deserving" of the award and called him

"one of the hardest workers I've ever

been around."

"He stays in late," Noah added.

"He's the first one here. He was there

for me all summer working me out. I

felt like I really improved as a player

because of him."

Thibodeau received 475 points

and 76 first-place votes from a media panel. Philadelphia's Doug Collins got 18 first-place votes and 210 points, and Gregg Popovich of San

Antonio finished third.

An NBA assistant for about two decades, Thibodeau finally got his chance to lead a team after spending three seasons working for Doc Rivers in Boston. He is the fourth Chicago coach to win the award, joining Johnny Kerr (1967), Dick Motta (1971) and Phil Jackson (1996).

"I think I was very fortunate to have great jobs along the way, to be with great teams," he said. "I always felt deep down that it would happen. I never doubted that it would happen. I knew I had to be patient. I recognized that these jobs were hard to get, and I was hopeful that I would get a chance. Then, I wanted to make the most of it."

He replaced the fired Vinny Del Negro in June, and with a rebuilt roster to go with an emphasis on defense and rebounding, the Bulls breezed to a 62-20 mark that matched their best record since Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen completed their second championship three-peat at the end of the 1997-98 season.

They did all that even though prized acquisition Carlos Boozer and Noah missed significant time with injuries, capturing home-court advantage throughout the playoffs and giving their coach a share of the record Westphal set with Phoenix during the 1992-93 season.

Thibodeau was known as a defensive mastermind who helped Boston win a championship in 2008 and get back to the finals last season. He also had that reputation as a workaholic and still does.

# Watson edges Simpson to win Zurich Classic



AVONDALE, La. (AP)—Bubba Watson has been working on becoming a better man.

He figures he's probably a better player because of it.

Earlier in his career, a double bogey in the middle of a hotly contested final round might have knocked the combustible Watson off his game.

Not anymore.

Watson overcame a three-stroke deficit over the final eight holes of regulation and beat Webb Simpson in a playoff Sunday in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans for his second PGA Tour victory of the year and third of his career.

"My wife, my caddie and my trainer would say my attitude's in the right spot," Watson said. "This week, I won (by) not getting down on bad shots, just staying focused on what I'm supposed to be doing."

He also had a little luck.

It came in the form of a bad break for Simpson, who remained winless on the PGA Tour and was left to wonder what might have been if not for an unusual one-stroke penalty on 15 when his ball moved as he was addressing it on the green, less than a foot from the hole.

"I better limit my comments on that rule, because I think it's such a bad rule," said Simpson, who seemed to think windy conditions, combined with relatively dry, hard greens, caused the ball to move. "When the wind or other natural things affect the golf ball, the player shouldn't be penalized. ... It was just unfortunate, but Bubba deserves a win, and I'm pretty happy for him."

Watson, also the winner at Torrey Pines in late January, matched Simpson with a 3-under 69 to finish at 15-under



him \$1,152,000 and moved him up from No. 16 to No. 10 in the world.

K.J. Choi, the 2002 winner in New Orleans, shot a 69 to tie for third at 13 under with Jason Dufner (66) and Tommy Gainey (69). Choi was 14 under after 16 holes, but three-putted for a bogey on the par-3 17th and narrowly missed a birdie putt on 18.

After Watson made his tournament-clinching putt, he hugged his mother, Molly, and wife Angie.

In Watson's estimation, both deserved credit for his latest victory.

His mother, who did not attend his previous two wins, asked him to play in the suburban New Orleans tournament so she could drive from her Pensacola, Fla., area home to watch him.

"I want to ask mom where else I should play," said Watson, who had or shared the lead at the end of every round at Pete Dye-designed TPC Louisiana. "Hopefully, it means a lot to her that she got to sweat and cry and do everything that I did and all my emotions that went through 18 holes and the two extra holes."

His wife, meanwhile, has been telling him for a while to work on his composure on the course.

"She told me that I'm playing golf for a living, it's a dream come true and ... I've got to act differently," Watson said. "If I'm going to support kids and do charity work, (getting angry on the course) is not a good example."

The best proof of the 32-year-old Watson's maturity came when he got into trouble on the par-3 ninth.

With the wind gusting and the crowd across the water erupting after Brendon De Jonge holed out from a bunker on 18, Watson backed away from his initial stance.

After stepping back up to his ball, the

left-handed Watson attempted a draw that was meant to rise up over the water to the left and curl back into a crosswind toward the front of the green, where the pin was placed. The ball died just a few crucial feet short, plunking the distinctive cypress planks imbedded in the bulkhead along the left side of the green and ricocheting into the water.

Watson then took his third shot from the front of the tee box and wound up with a double bogey, while Simpson made par for a two-shot lead.

When Watson's caddie, Ted Scott, offered a couple words of encouragement, Watson responded, "You don't have to worry about me. I'm in it."

Watson hooked drives to the left on Nos. 10, 11 and 12, but wound up with playable lies and made par on each, losing only one more stroke when Simpson birdied 10.

Simpson's bogey on 12 allowed Watson to make up one shot, then he pulled another shot back with a birdie on 13 that he set up with a bold 321-yard drive over a massive sand trap.

Then came Simpson's penalty on 15, after which Watson shook his head sympathetically before methodically two-putting for par to move into a tie at 15 under with three holes to go.

Simpson didn't let the misfortune rattle him too much, making par on the next three holes, which was good enough to force a playoff after Watson's 9-foot birdie putt for the win came to rest 2 inches from the hole.

Yet Watson, who considers Simpson a good friend, called the penalty, "heartbreaking."

"If I didn't win, he would have been a nice guy to have won," Watson added. "We went to a playoff, so obviously one shot is the difference. ... It's a sad way to win, but I won."

tions in his first multihit game of the season. Jayson Werth was 3 for 4.

## Padres 7, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Dustin Moseley pitched seven shutout innings for his first victory of 2011 as San Diego blanked Los Angeles.

Moseley (1-3) struck out six and allowed just two runners as far as second base. He was winless in five April starts despite a 1.99 ERA, with his teammates getting shut out in each of his first three outings.

## Astros 5, Brewers 0

In Houston, Carlos Lee hit a three-run homer before being taken to the hospital to have X-rays on his injured ribcage, and Houston downed Milwaukee.

Lee's home run, off Brewers starter Chris Narveson (1-2), came in the sixth and pushed Houston's lead to 4-0. He was injured in the seventh inning when teammate Angel Sanchez kneed him in the ribs as both were trying to catch a pop-fly double.

## Diamondbacks 4, Cubs 3

In Phoenix, Ryan Roberts homered as Arizona took advantage of some key mistakes by Chicago.

J.J. Putz got his sixth save of the season in six chances when he induced pinch-hitter Jeff Baker to ground into a game-ending double play with runners at the corners.

Daniel Hudson (2-4) pitched seven solid innings, giving up three runs.

## Indians notch 13th straight home win



(AP)—The surprise-packet Cleveland Indians fought back for a 5-4 victory over the Detroit Tigers in the American League on Sunday to extend their home winning streak to 13 games.

Cleveland's sixth straight win overall also increased the Tigers' losing streak to six. The three-game sweep gave the Indians four series sweeps this season, already matching their entire total for 2010.

### Angels 6, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Los Angeles came from five runs down to beat Tampa Bay.

The Angels went ahead 6-5 in the eighth thanks in part to Vernon Wells, who drew a walk from Joel Peralta (1-1) with Torii Hunter on third. Wells slowed up on Hank Conger's grounder and forced the second baseman to throw to first for an out. Wells then prolonged a rundown long enough for Hunter to score.

### Athletics 7, Rangers 2

In Oakland, the hosts snapped out of their scoring slump to beat Texas.

Conor Jackson had two hits and two RBIs, leadoff hitter Coco Crisp added two hits in his return to the lineup and Kurt Suzuki had two RBIs to help the A's score more than six runs for only the fourth time this season.

They knocked out Rangers starter Matt Harrison (3-3) in the second

inning.

### Yankees 5, Blue Jays 2

In New York, Curtis Granderson hit a three-run homer to power New York to victory over Toronto.

Mark Teixeira also went deep, Jorge Posada broke out of an 0-for-19 slump and Francisco Cervelli added an RBI groundout in his first game back from the disabled list as the Yankees remained unbeaten in home series this season.

### Red Sox 3, Mariners 2

In Boston, Jed Lowrie tripled when Ichiro Suzuki lost his fly ball in the sun, and Carl Crawford singled him home with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Boston over Seattle.

Jamey Wright (0-1) took the loss despite getting his first four batters before Lowrie lofted one to right, where Suzuki looked helplessly as the ball hit him in the hip. After a second out, Crawford lined one to center to end it.

### Royals 10, Twins 3

In Kansas City, Mike Aviles homered and drove in four runs to help Kansas City beat Minnesota.

The Twins have lost six in a row and were swept in a three-game series by the Royals for the first time since 1998. Minnesota dropped to 9-18, the worst record in the majors and are nine games below .500 for the first time since fin-

ishing the 2000 season.

### Orioles 6, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Nick Markakis hit a three-run double to help Baltimore defeat Chicago.

Luke Scott and Mark Reynolds added solo home runs for the Orioles, who have won five of six and will try to complete a four-game sweep Monday.

### Marlins 9, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, Hanley Ramirez hit his first home run of the season and the Florida Marlins went deep a season-high five times to beat the Cincinnati Reds.

John Buck homered to snap a seventh-inning tie. Greg Dobbs, Mike Stanton and Emilio Bonifacio also connected for the Marlins, who got all their runs from homers.

Jay Bruce and Brandon Phillips homered for the Reds in a game of long shots.

### Braves 6, Cardinals 5

In Atlanta, Brooks Conrad recaptured his pinch-hit magic of 2010, driving in the winning run in the ninth inning to give Atlanta victory over St. Louis.

Conrad, who had three homers—including two grand slams—and drove in 12 runs as a pinch-hitter last season, hit a bloop single off Ryan Franklin (0-3) to drive in Alex Gonzalez from second base.

### Pirates 8, Rockies 4

In Denver, Charlie Morton pitched into the sixth inning to guide Pittsburgh past Colorado.

Morton (3-1) allowed seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Garrett Jones had three RBIs while Xavier Paul, Andrew McCutchen, Lyle Overbay and Pedro Alvarez all had two hits for the Pirates, who have four road series wins already, matching their entire 2010 tally.

### Mets 2, Phillies 1, 14 innings

In Philadelphia, Ronny Paulino had a career-high five hits in his first start for the Mets, including a go-ahead double in the 14th inning, as New York beat Philadelphia.

Taylor Buchholz (1-0), one of six Mets pitchers used, pitched two scoreless innings in relief to help New York snap a three-game losing streak.

Kyle Kendrick (1-2), one of six Philadelphia pitchers, allowed four hits in three innings to take the loss.

### Nationals 5, Giants 2

In Washington, Jordan Zimmermann (2-4) allowed only two runs over six innings to end his three-game losing streak and lead Washington past San Francisco.

Ivan Rodriguez hit a two-run single in the eighth, while Alex Cora had a double, a single and an RBI for the Na-

# QQ Car Rental caging tips off Saturday

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



The 2nd Annual QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational Basketball

League kicks off this Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court with a parade of teams and opening ceremony followed by a doubleheader.

"We are very excited to get this second season under way and would like to send a special thanks to co-sponsors MarPac, Hard Rock Café, Ernie Molina, the Rollers Basketball Club, and the Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI for helping make this all possible," said QQ Cup director Reynaldo Perez.

Assembly for the opening parade is set from 4:30pm to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
League organizers, officials, and coaches pose for a photo to announce this Saturday's 2nd Annual QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup opening ceremony at the Garapan Basketball Court.

## BENNETT

From Page 28

Besides Wong and Bennett, NMASA also nominated Lia Rangamar and Tony Rogolifoi. Rangamar will be battling nominees from 22 member-nations

for the Outstanding Junior Athlete of the Year, while Rogolifoi will be gunning for the Coach of the Year Award.

Rangamar was nominated for her strong showings in athletics and basketball. She was a member of the CNMI Team that won the silver medal in Palau and

a muse, to be eligible for the opening pairings.

The featured teams this season include inaugural champion Mobil and runner-up Ferrera Builders along with Konflikt,

Prospects, Smart Cagers, Blue Hauz, Sonics, and Rollers Basketball Clubs' A and B squads.

Father Ike Ayuyu will be at the court to lead the opening prayer, followed by welcome

nesian Games. Rogolifoi was also among the active coaches/managers in Little League and Saipan Major League.

Winners in the 3rd Annual Pacific Sports Awards will be announced this September during the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

## INCHCAPE

From Page 28

The big shot shifted momentum to Inchcape's favor and they managed another jumper to pull ahead, leaving Soul Jazz with only a second on the game clock.

Soul Jazz's Glenn Aquino got a look, but missed the midrange shot his team needed to force overtime.

Pantaleon and Bernardo combined for 41 points, while Soul Jazz's Big 3 of Aquino, Inos, and Jessie Mina finished with 42 in the loss.

In the second game, Armathech blasted Brabu Pharmacy, 102-46, to finally break into the win column after four games. Brabu is still winless after three contests.

Armathech broke out to a 23-9 lead in the opening 10 minutes of action as the backcourt of Elmer Esdrelon and Bernard Montano combined

for 14 points.

Armathech then amassed a 47-26 margin at the break as six different players scored during the onslaught.

The 14 points from Randy Mungcal provided Brabu's only spark in the first frame.

It was much of the same in the second half as Armathech stretched it out to a 70-38 lead after three quarters.

With the game well out of hand, Armathech ran up the score past the century mark in the final period.

Armathech's J.R. Ngeskebei led a handful of teammates in double digits with 23 points, while Mungcal turned in 21 in the loss.

On Friday, Saipan World Resort routed Triple J-Sandy Beach Homes, 82-62.

The Hanwa-owned hotel built a 26-15 margin after the opening period thanks to three long balls and 13 points from Wowie Abuel.

World Resort then stretched

its lead to 14 points, 46-32, at halftime as Nards Ramos delivered six points in the quarter.

The team then pressed on after the break and contained Triple J to just 10 points in the third quarter.

Julius Tabamo scored six markers in the third to help give his team a 63-42 edge.

Both teams traded baskets in the final period.

Abuel and Dennis Vinas went on score a total of 34 markers to equal Triple J's Teddy Bugay and Ron Siroy's point total.

The win improved World Resort's record to 2-0, while the loss was the second in as many outings for Triple J.

Friday's second game between Archers and Andhock's was rained out.

## SATURDAY First Game

**Inchcape 68 –** Pantaleon 21, Bernardo 20, Tabora 14, Demapan 6, Tobias 3, Jinang

their foes to four points and one field goal in the last four minutes of the second canto. On offense, the Civic Boys outgunned Team 8, 10-4, to stay in contention at the break, 19-26.

In the third period, Team 8 regained its double-digit lead, 44-32, when Tabora hit his target anew. He kicked off the third period with three straight baskets and finished with 10 in that quarter.

Behind by 12, entering the final canto, the Civic Boys leaned on Ron Gamboa for the comeback. He drilled two triples and sizzled for 11 points in the payoff period. However, time-

ly baskets from Banatasa and Tabora foiled Team 8's repeated comeback bids. Banatasa made Team 8's first two baskets in the fourth period, while Tabora scored four of the squad's last eight markers.

With the win, Team 8 joins Pool B's GPPC (2-3) versus Pool A's Team Pacman (0-5), and Pool A's Team Max (2-3) against Pool B's Team Fishermen.

**Team 8 60 –** Tabora 26, Banatasa 14, Cruz 5, Daprosa 4, Zapata 4, Hernaez 4, Siriban 3.

**Civic Boyz 52 –** Gamboa 18, Cadag 11, Demapan 8, Duhon 5, Rollon 4, Tenepere 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 14-6,

26-19, 44-32, 60-52.

**Team 8 60 –** Tabora 26, Banatasa 14, Cruz 5, Daprosa 4, Zapata 4, Hernaez 4, Siriban 3.

**Civic Boyz 52 –** Gamboa 18, Cadag 11, Demapan 8, Duhon 5, Rollon 4, Tenepere 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 14-6,

26-19, 44-32, 60-52.

## TEAM 8

From Page 28

Toto Banatasa added 14.

Both teams started slow with the Civic Boys limited to only three field goals and six points. Tabora matched Civic Boys total output in the opening salvo and Team 8 drew two points each from four other players for a 14-6 lead.

Then in the second quarter, Tabora canned three straight short jumpers, padding Team 8's lead to 16, 22-6.

After Team 8's 8-0 start, the Civic Boys regrouped and held

remarks from Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Department of Parks & Recreation's Tony Benavente, and QQ Car Rental president James Hann.

League organizers, Perez and Marlon Sison, will then greet the crowd before the team muses take the floor and last year's most valuable player, Jun Estolas, will recite the oath of sportsmanship just before the anticipated raffle drawing for the two opening matchups.

After a short warm-up intermission, the first game is set to tip off at 6:30pm followed by an 8:30pm nightcap.

In addition, DJ Jay on the House will be at the spot dropping beats throughout the evening; the opening ceremony theme is bannered,

"It's game time!"

After opening night, two games are expected to run on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in Garapan starting at 6pm and 8pm.

This year's playoff format includes one single-elimination round where the Top 2 teams advance to winner-take-all championship.

League organizers are also planning to showcase an all-star game after conclusion of the league's elimination round, as well as a 3-point shooting contest and a U12 youth exhibition game during halftime of the championship match.

For more information, email [qqcarrentalcup@yahoo.com](mailto:qqcarrentalcup@yahoo.com) or contact either Sison at 989-6463 or Perez at 989-8759.

## Tribune Sports Scores

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	9	.640	—
Tampa Bay	15	13	.536	2 1/2
Baltimore	13	13	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	13	15	.464	4 1/2
Boston	12	15	.444	5

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	19	8	.704	—
Kansas City	15	13	.536	4 1/2
Detroit	12	16	.429	7 1/2
Chicago	10	19	.345	10
Minnesota	9	18	.333	10

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	9	.667	—
Florida	17	9	.654	1/2
Atlanta	14	15	.483	5
Washington	13	14	.481	5
New York	12	16	.429	6 1/2

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	16	12	.571	—
Cincinnati	14	14	.500	2
Milwaukee	13	14	.481	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	13	15	.464	3
Chicago	12	15	.444	3 1/2
Houston	11	17	.393	5

#### West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Colorado	17	9	.654	—
Los Angeles	14	15	.483	4 1/2
San Francisco	13	14	.481	4 1/2
Arizona	12	15	.444	5 1/2
San Diego	11	17	.393	7

#### Yesterday's Games

Washington 5, San Francisco 2
Atlanta 6, St. Louis 5
Houston 5, Milwaukee 0
Pittsburgh 8, Colorado 4
Arizona 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Florida 9, Cincinnati 5
San Diego 7, L.A. Dodgers 0
N.Y. Mets 2, Philadelphia 1, 14 innings
Cleveland 5, Detroit 4
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 2
B

# SAFE Jamboree/FIBA 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



RBC Frotos' Irvyn Malonzo, left, dribbles past an RBC PJ's defender.



The Lakers' June Christian Alipio dribbles against a His and Hers defender.



RBC PJ's John Cenir, left, tries to tap the ball away from the hands of RBC Frotos' Emerson Feria during their U16 game in the SAFE Jamboree/FIBA 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.



A Hoops player pulls up for a jumper against RBC Ballers' John Darag.



RBC Ballers' John Darag pulls up for a shot against the RBC Rascals' Melvin Deocares during their U12 game.



The Lions' Nevin Salem goes up for a jump hook against RBC Cougars defenders.



An RBC Ballers player looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as a RBC Rascals player defends him.



Two female players from His and Hers and Lakers in action during their U12 match.



A Falcons player drives to the baseline against a Celtics defender.



RBC Frotos' JP Iglesias pulls up for a jumper against an RBC PJ's defender.



**Wade powers Heat over Celtics in Game 1**

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**Saipan Tribune**  
**Sports**

**Watson edges Simpson to win Zurich Classic**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Bennett, Wong nominated for Pacific Awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**S**pinner Yvonne Bennett and swimmer Rezne Wong led the CNMI's nominees to the 3rd Annual Pacific Sports Awards.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association nominated Bennett and Wong for the Outstanding Female and Male Athletes of the Year of the prestigious event organized by the Pacific Games Council.

The 20-year-old Bennett was nominated for her



significant performance in 2010. She won four gold medals in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, setting record-breaking marks in the 100m and 200m races and reestablishing her claim to Micronesian's fastest woman title.

With her impressive races in Palau, Bennett was named the 2010 NMASA Female Athlete of the Year, notching the award for the third straight time. Bennett is now enrolled at Boise State University and is a member of the Broncos' track team, which is competing in NCAA Division I tournaments. She was part of BSU's relay team that crushed the 23-year record in the 4x400m race.

Wong is also competing for an NCAA Division I school, the University of Hawaii-Manoa, and was part of the team that won the Conference-USA Championship in Houston, Texas.

Last year, he was named the Most Outstanding Male Athlete of the 2010 Micronesian Games after earning 13 gold medals and one silver in Palau. He also took home the 2010 NMASA Male Athlete of the Year Award—his second, as he won the same plum in 2008.

See BENNETT on Page 26

## Omais vs Aschoscho for softball finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Omais and host Aschoscho went unbeaten in the 2011 Aschoscho Association-Marianas March Against Cancer Softball Tournament over the weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield to arrange their duel for the first finals berth in the fundraiser.

Aschoscho booked the first semis ticket, following an 11-3 triumph over Peleliu. Aschoscho, which is composed of Jess and Mike Iguel, Mel Benjamin, Vince Cepeda, Jerome Delos Santos, Brandon Hocog, Noki Saralu, Tony Celis, Ben Taisacan, Boom Castro, Rudy Kaipat, and Margaret Duenas, also prevailed over BAC, 18-2, and Purriirriin, 15-9, for a perfect record in the weekend tournaments.

Omais also had a 3-0 record after two days of play to advance to the semifinals of the winner's bracket. Omais sealed the second semis ticket after a 5-3 victory over Team Dolores Korason. Omais also won over Just 4 Fun and Team 4 Mike for a clean slate in the 15-team field. Playing for Omais are siblings Eli and Derrick Aughenbaugh, McQueen Masaharu, Tyrone

Omar, McQueen and Marino Hiroichi, Luis Ngiraike-lau, Angel Reyes, and Jason Camacho.

Aschoscho and Omais will square off for the finals berth tonight at 6pm with the winner gaining a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round. Then at 7pm, Peleliu will take on Cowtown Boys in the loser's bracket semis.

The 7pm match is a must win for Peleliu and Cowtown Boys as the victor of the playoff match will challenge the loser of the Aschoscho-Omais tiff for the second and last finals seat at 8pm. Game 1 of the championship duel is set for 9pm.

Cowtown Boys kept their finals bid alive after prevailing over Team Dolores Korason in the loser's bracket, 20-17. Following its loss to Aschoscho in the winner's bracket quarterfinals, Peleliu recovered with a 7-5 victory over Purriirriin.

Other teams that joined the fundraiser, but were already eliminated were Chu'lee, Sankatan Na Isla, Wassup, Phat Boys, As Matuus, and Team Bodig.

The co-ed softball tournament is one of a series of fundraising events for the Marianas March Against Cancer, which will culminate on May 13-14 at Hopwood Junior High School.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Omais' Tyrone Omar picks up a grounder during their game against Just 4 Fun in the 2011 Aschoscho Association-Marianas March Against Cancer Softball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

## Inchcape rallies past Soul Jazz; Armatch wins

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Inchcape battled from behind for majority of the contest before pulling off a 68-66 comeback win against Soul Jazz in the opener of last Saturday's 4th Miller Lite Friendly Invitational Basketball League at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win was the second in as many games for Inchcape, while the loss dropped Soul Jazz to 1-1.

Inchcape managed an early 18-14 lead in the opening 10 minutes, but Soul Jazz adjusted in the second quarter and contained its opponent to just four points in the period.

Soul Jazz took a double-digit lead, 32-22, spread at the half. Soul Jazz's Perry Inos and Inchcape's Kae Bernardo led their squads with eight markers apiece in

the first half.

Inchcape battled back after the break and tied the game at 54-all heading into the last quarter.

Inchcape actually took the lead, but Inos nailed a 3-pointer at the buzzer to keep the game all knotted up.

Inchcape's Bernardo and Jun Pantaleon teamed up for 23 points in the third quarter.

Soul Jazz reclaimed a slight edge throughout the fourth quarter, but Inchcape refused to quit and out-hustled the bigger Soul Jazz players and won the battle for rebounds in the clutch.

Pantaleon was on fire and hit one big shot after another to keep his team in contention as he converted five shots from behind the arc.

Then down by three in the final minute, Inchcape's Ferdie Tobias sank a 3-pointer to tie the game; it was his only points of the match.

See INCHCAPE 8 on Page 26



Inchcape's Jun Pantaleon goes right at the double team of Soul Jazz in last Saturday's Miller Lite Friendly Invitational Basketball League at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

## Team 8 eliminates Civic Boys in Lions Club caging, 60-52



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Team 8's Toto Banatasa, left, drives against the Civic Boys' Ron Gamboa during their playoff game in the Marianas Lions Club caging last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Team 8 advanced to the next round of the 2011 Saipan Marianas Club-Civic Center Inter-Color Friendship Basketball League after beating the Civic Boys at the start of the playoffs, 60-52, last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Jun Tabora fired 26 points for Team 8, which began controlling the game in the second quarter and thwarted Civic Boys fourth-quarter rally to pull off an eight-point win.

See TEAM 8 on Page 26

